The CONGLOMERATE

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Centenary named one of the 25 Hottest Schools by *Newsweek* and MSNBC

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

In a list that includes Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, Princeton, and Harvard, Centenary College of Louisiana was named by Newsweek as one of the 25 hottest universities in the country today.

Deemed the "hottest liberal arts school you never heard of," Centenary is painted by Newsweek writer Jay Mathews as a center of "academic innovation" with a "solid reputation in various professions."

To be grouped with such a well-known prestigious group of colleges and universities is no small feat. Editorials in The Shreveport Times have spoken of how the Shreveport-Bossier community often takes the gem that is Centenary for granted, but thanks to the millions of readers that constitute Newsweek's weekly audience, this small college has been thrust into the national limelight.

The coverage didn't just stop there: "The Today Show" on NBC covered the article and singled Centenary out of the already pared down 25 to discuss. Unsurprisingly, Centenary students and faculty alike were surprised to turn on their televisions and see the college's name splashed across national television.

In reference to Student Government-sponsored events of last semester, junior Sara Carpenter said, "With the mascot debate, a lot of people went away thinking the end result didn't matter because no one pays attention to Centenary. This award is cool because it shows even though we're a small college, we can be well-known."

The award is one of just many accolades the college can proudly add to its repertoire. The 2008 Princeton Review has named Centenary one of the best 366 colleges in the United States, mainly down to the unforgettably personalized educational experience that comes with small class sizes.

Also bringing attention to Louisiana in the Newsweek article is Tulane University in New Orleans, labeled "hottest on the rebound." Tulane's enrollment increased by a staggering 56% in just one year, still only two years after Katrina when parts of the city are still rebuilding. Other universities mentioned in the elite 25 were Princeton (Hottest for Liberal Arts), Georgetown (Hottest Big-City School), Harvard (Hottest for Rejection), and Johns Hopkins (Hottest for Pre-Meds).

The criteria used to select these universities were the opinions and expertise of admissions employees, high school guidance counselors, parents and students themselves.

Senior Maggie Mahoney expressed her excitement at the recognition. "It's what Centenary deserves because of all the hard work of the students, faculty, and staff," she said. "I think we can attract more students in the future and this award is only the beginning of it."

Letter from the editor: Centenary offers job opportunities, YouTube madness, and (best of all) *Conglomerate* meetings

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Thanks in part to the education and experience I've gained from Centenary so far, I had the privilege of interning with a United Nations agency in Rome, Italy this summer. Fellow students have had similar good fortune with sweet summer jobs: senior Parker Jarnigan interned with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., while junior Courtney Delaney weathered the fascinating storm that surrounded Senator David Vitter's office once the scandalous news broke.

My takeaway from my 3-month stint with the United Nations was this: just a little nonprofit and volunteer work goes a long way (the other takeaway is that they know how to party – my farewell had colleague Bill bringing out some 76-proof Czech liquor called Becherovka). Nonprofit international organizations like the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are often lambasted for inefficiency and too much bureaucracy. Critics and cynics alike often cite the 850 million people starving today as obvious proof that these agencies just aren't getting the job done, let alone quickly enough. But after painstakingly researching what exactly FAO gets up to in Chile, Mexico, Zambia, and the Caribbean, I learned that progress is indeed being made.

A major part of the Centenary Plan is Service-Learning, whereby every Centenary student is required to do a certain number of hours of community service. This is just one of the many seemingly unnecessary and tedious tasks on the path to graduation that will come in handy – even before you get that diploma. But like the lessons I learned at the UN, such requirements do significantly supplement your education.

Before I sound more like public relations and less like the independent campus newspaper's editor-in-chief, there are college and local issues that people have to contend with, just like everywhere else. In the past, our campus newspaper has always dutifully reported on major changes taking place around campus and the city, but almost shying away from issues of bigger impact. I want this year's Conglomerate to highlight not only the best of Centenary and the news but to run investigative articles and series on common problems from the local to the international scale. I invite you all to submit article ideas for the paper and, even more excitingly (for me), to write for the paper. We meet every Sunday at 9:00 pm in the Conglomerate office on the third floor of the Student Union Building – everyone is welcome. Amidst the inevitable YouTube merriment concerning leprechauns hiding in trees and middle-aged women in shiny gold pants, there are good times and good journalism to be had.

Review: fantastic shows open the Marjorie Lyons Playhouse season

Shannon Stoddard
Guest Contributor

If you haven't seen either of Marjorie Lyons Playhouse's marvelous shows yet, I would strongly recommend going and checking them out. "The Taming of the Shrew" will run Friday, August 31, for the last time at 8 p.m. "Romeo and Juliet" will run Thursday, August 30, and Saturday, September 1, at 8 p.m.

Unfortunately, I can only give you my review of one show because I still have not had time to watch both. I went to see "Taming of the Shrew" on Saturday night and I can honestly say that I enjoyed it. If you are not a big fan of Shakespeare, don't fear. Heather Peak Hooper, the director of both shows, has added a 1950's theme to the show rather than a boring Elizabethan style. Even the characters in the show have their own unique twist. Rather than during Shakespeare's time, when all the roles were played by men (including the women), the women played all the roles. I was shocked to see Marissa Brown, who plays Luciento, come out onstage dressed and looking like a man. Playing the lead roles of Katharina and Petruchio are Emily Heagatter-Mathias and Rachael Magill. Both women are amazing and have great chemistry together on the stage. You can tell both have so much passion for the show.

The person who made me laugh the most, though, would have to be Kalah Robberts playing Grumio. This girl has great comic timing and between her and Rachael they kept me laughing. The show is a little long, but if you have the time I would really recommend coming out to see the show. It is a comedy, so you don't have to worry about everyone killing themselves by the end of the show!

As for "Romeo and Juliet," Don Hooper claims that the lighting is great and I am interested to see what he is talking about. I know that this show is supposed to have a New Orleans theme, so that should be fairly interesting. You will see some familiar faces there such as Nate Wasson, Cameron Bradford, Lorna Dopson, Marissa Brown, Savannah Baggerly, Haley Young and many more that have been performing on the MLP stage for a while.

FEATURES

Sewanee Review publishes Dr. Havird's poetry

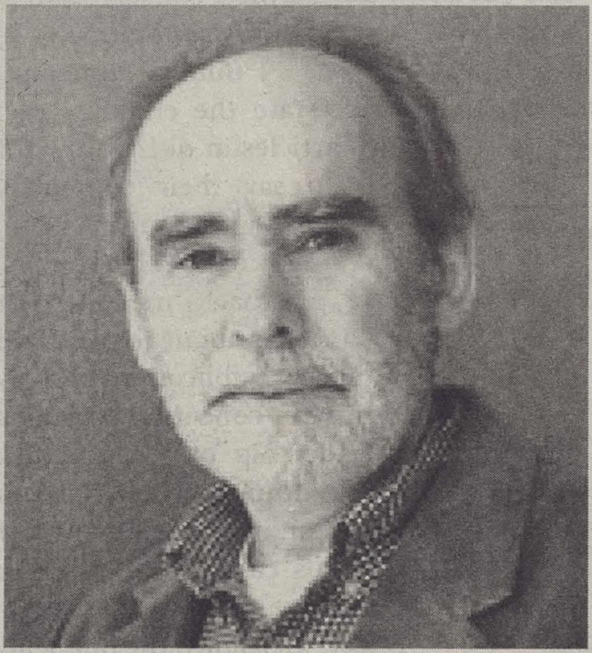
Jessica Brown
Staff Writer

Dr. Havird of the English department recently had the distinguished honor of having some of his poetry published. His poem, "The Horse on Zennor Hill", was published by the Sewanee Review on August 14th, 2007.

The Sewanee Review is a magazine published by the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. The magazine is one of the oldest in the country, having been published since 1892, and has featured an array of famous writers such as Robert Penn Warren, Andre Dubus, and Anne Sexton. In the Sewanee Review, one can find a number of different writings, from poetry to fiction and everything in between.

When asked to describe what motivated him to write such an interesting poem, Dr. Havird replied that he had extended his stay on a May module with his wife in Cornwall, England, where the tiny coastal town of Zennor is located.

He narrated how he and his wife hiked up a large hill, accompanied by the large hoof prints of a horse the entire way up. However, when they reached the top there was no horse to be seen. There were large boulders and a small quarry. Here Dr. Havird explained that he let his imagination take flight by imagining that perhaps the horse had disappeared into one of the boulders to be reborn of it again one day. He remembered the Greek myth of Pegasus, the winged horse who he says is a symbol for the creative arts, and felt quite creative. So came his lovely poem, "The Horse on Zennor Hill", which anyone can enjoy by going to either the Sewanee Review website or going to "archives" on the Centenary website.



Dr. Havird also had a poem published in the Yale Review last fall called "Smoking in Bed". The poem is generally about what boys learn growing, up but is directly related to a time when he and his family heard on the radio that Marilyn Monroe had died while they were driving to the beach. When questioned about what inspires him to write, Dr. Havird replied that convergences – experiences triggering memories of other experiences – are the main source of his writing. He explained to me how he came up with the idea for his first published poem, "End of a Year", which was published in The New Yorker in 1975. The poem, he explained, was about a number of wasps that invaded his room in college. He stated that those wasps became connected in his mind with the Pharaoh's army in the search of infant Christ. How could those possibly connect? He told how he had learned in his Colonial American Literature course that South Carolina, where he was living at the time, was on the same latitude as the holy land, which triggered the connection.

Dr. Havird has been writing poetry since high school. He says that he does struggle with writer's block, but once a poem gets started the result is a delight for everyone to read. His poetic inspirations are James Dickey and Robert Lowell. Dr. Havird writes in a room at his house and will think of new ideas often while walking the dog. Surely we can expect more great poetry from Dr. Havird in the future.

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Letter to the editor: Local pastor disappointed by last semester's "Sex and the Centenary" columns

I consider it deep joy to be a lifetime United Methodist, and to have served as a pastor for the past 17 years. I also consider it deep joy to have pastored students who chose to attend Centenary College upon their high school graduation. I consider it deep joy to have watched year after year as Centenary was rated as one of the top liberal arts colleges in the nation. It has also been a deep joy to promote the heritage and tradition of Centenary College within the local churches where I have pastored. I have grown to love the campus through attending many Annual Conferences and participating in Weekend of the Cross. The beauty of the campus exudes warmth and serenity, and says "Welcome," whenever I am there. Though not a graduate of Centenary myself, I feel a deep belonging through the connection of the Louisiana Annual Conference, and feel, in some sense, that Centenary College is my school (with all due respect to La. Tech University—Go Bulldogs!).

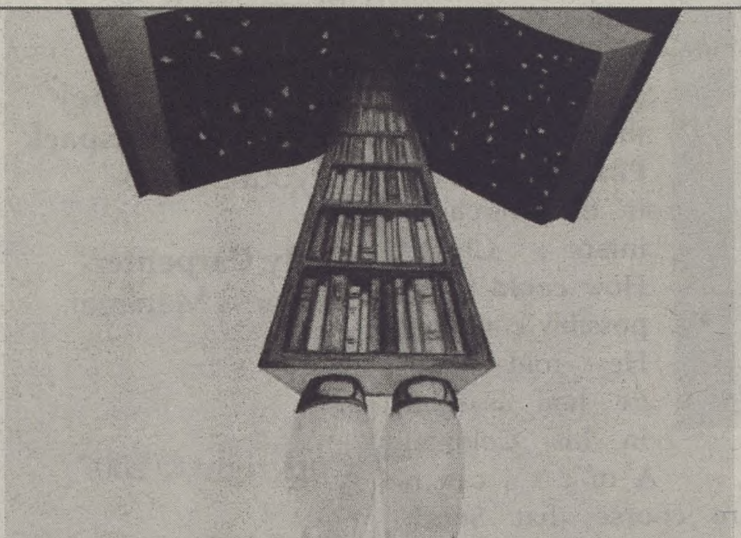
I must confess that my long-time joy has been somewhat saddened over these past summer months. I was particularly saddened by two articles that appeared in two editions of The Conglomerate on April 20, 2007, and April 27, 2007. Those articles carried the titles "Sex and the Centenary." I must also confess to you that I am not a regular reader of The Conglomerate, and have no idea whether Southern Elle is a regular contributor to the publication. These articles were brought to my attention by members of my congregation who expressed deep concern over their content. After reading the articles myself, I shared their concern, and dare I say, their disappointment.

I think it unnecessary to re-state the contents of the two articles in question. Suffice it to say their content was disturbing enough that my church members felt compelled to approach me with their concerns about the leadership of the publication and even raised concerns about the leadership of the institution. I mention both concerns only to demonstrate the power that words carry, even when they may be written or uttered in jest. Certainly, the publication of the articles may have been the editorial staff's attempt at light-hearted distraction from end-of-semester stresses. I do not know the purpose for inclusion of the articles in The Conglomerate, but I do know that the articles were beneath the dignity of The Conglomerate, and were certainly beneath the dignity and integrity of Centenary College and of the United Methodist Church.

I am writing as a United Methodist pastor to ask the editorial staff and faculty advisors to please consider the possible implications of every article submitted for publication in The Conglomerate. I understand The Conglomerate is a student publication and will most often address issues that pertain to student life (and sex certainly meets those criteria). But I also understand that most students are at Centenary because they embrace the tradition, history and values of their Christian faith, and the rich history, dignity and integrity of the college itself. The fact is that every publication that emanates from Centenary College, whether institutional, faculty, or student produced, reflects upon Centenary College, and by extension, the United Methodist Church. Please be diligent in insuring that the integrity of all is maintained.

Perhaps most students have long since forgotten these two articles, and moved on to other interests. And, alas! My joy will return as fall comes and I make my way back to campus from time to time, and feel the warmth and welcome that is everywhere apparent. My joy will grow again as I journey with current students who are members of my congregation, and my joy will grow as one day perhaps one of my own children chooses to make Centenary College their own place of higher education. My prayer is that my joy will not be turned to sadness again simply because someone chose to disregard the values of our faith or of our school.

In Christ,
Rev. Lynn Malone, Pastor
Benton United Methodist Church



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Editor's response: Support of safe sex awareness and wide marketplace of ideas are behind decision to run sex column

I need to preface this letter by saying I appreciate everyone who takes the time to read The Conglomerate, and even more so those who voice their reactions by writing in. We can't possibly gauge the feeling of every individual reader, so regardless of content or tone, a letter to the editor is always genuinely welcome and will always be given consideration for publication. To the Reverend Lynn Malone, specifically, I appreciate your letter and sincere concern for the college.

I also want to clarify how this paper is run. "The Conglomerate is an independent student publication, and does not reflect the opinions of Centenary College of Louisiana" – this disclaimer runs in every single issue that we publish. I can understand that it may be hard to distance a campus newspaper from the campus itself, but it's necessary; the administration, faculty, and staff of Centenary College have no direct participation in this paper. It is written, photographed, designed, and edited entirely by students voluntarily devoting their time. The regret I felt when reading Reverend Lynn Malone's letter was invoked by a comment questioning "the leadership of [this] institution" because of what was published in the student-run Conglomerate. That is an incorrect correlation.

That said, it was my decision to run Southern Elle's writings, and remains my decision – and I accept full responsibility for that. I accept that students around campus either support or disagree with the existence of the column, and aside from being glad to hear people are discussing it in a civilized manner, I can only say that I do not think it needs to be censored. Indeed, I believe that censorship would threaten the integrity of the college. My decision to run "Sex and the Centenary" is based on many components: the fact that other colleges of our caliber and religious affiliation regularly run similar columns, the importance of safe sex awareness for my age group, and the broad appeal of Southern Elle's writings. While her topics ranged from the potentially offensive to the culturally significant, the recurring theme in the columns published last semester was an emphasis on safe sex.

I will state the contents of the two columns in question because I believe in their relevance. The April 20th column, I acknowledge, was probably the most risqué one we ran, centered on the availability and quality of sex toys. Southern Elle evaluated the worth of said toys in terms of physical health and in technical, professional terms – one of the many reasons I support her writing is that skill. The column may be overly explicit to some, but technically so, not obscenely. I would not publish the same column written with lewd slang language written in place of Elle's clinical anatomy diction.

The April 27th column, however, is the perfect example of why I will continue to let Southern Elle write. After briefly giving helpful tips to those attempting long-distance romance over the summer, she spent the rest of the piece stressing the necessity of condoms and STD-testing, delineating the best of Shreveport's clinics and urging readers to make appointments with their doctors for updates on their sexual health. While HIV remains a paralyzing worldwide epidemic and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declare STDs a continuing "major public health challenge," Elle's brand of advocacy is irrefutably significant.

I would be disheartened to know that the column's presence deters people from reading other sections of the paper – sections that include well-researched and written interviews with Oscar-nominated filmmakers, Centenary professors, and campus and community leaders. The intention behind "Sex and the Centenary" is not to shove obscene imagery in an unwitting reader's face, but to educate and entertain those interested. It is one column in what is usually a 20-page paper.

I can only truly speak for myself, but I know a significant portion of the student body, who, like myself, attend Centenary for the free marketplace of ideas and subsequent education which that kind of forum provides. Centenary is a Methodist-affiliated college with Christian, Muslim, Jewish, atheist, and agnostic students (I myself am a Hindu). The purpose statement of the college challenges the students "to appreciate the diversity of human cultures." I dedicate myself to the paper in the spirit of journalism and with the knowledge that these papers will be archived as part of the college's history. An institution like Centenary is the pinnacle of higher education: intelligent people exchanging intelligent ideas and almost universally in agreement on the importance of freedom of speech – these are the values of our school. In this spirit, at least for the moment, The Conglomerate will continue to celebrate students from all walks of life, with colorful statements to make through all manners of expression.

Versha Sharma
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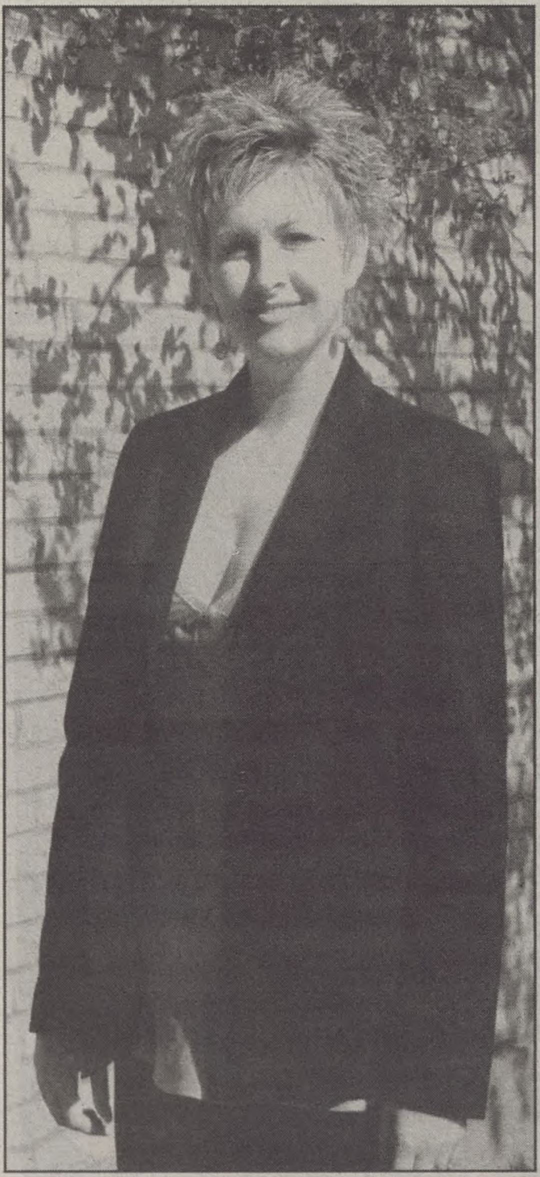
Marjorie Lyons Playhouse finds new talent and teacher in Emily Heugatter-Mathias

Jenni Loer
Staff Writer

After a two-year search for a new theatre professor, Marjorie Lyons Playhouse finally happened upon a worthy candidate - Emily Heugatter-Mathias.

"I felt immediately welcomed into the Centenary family by the faculty, administration, and especially the students," said Heugatter-Mathias about her visits to campus. From then on, she and the department "knew it was a good fit."

Her education at University of Utah and DePaul University gave her the edge, but her training as a professional actress in Chicago provided her with the real world experience and contacts that students of the Theatre Department were looking for. As though her qualifications on paper were not enough, her vivacious personality and ability to connect with the students perfectly complimented the department's open-door policy.



In her initial interview with department head, Don Hooper, she recognized that the two "shared many similar views on actor training at a liberal arts institution. We both value the process rather than the product, and are interested in turning out actors that know their craft."

Emily Heugatter-Mathias has been a presence in the playhouse ever since her interview. Whether she was attending mainstage performances to support her future students or commandeering bookshelves for her office, she was welcome. To help ease her from the professional acting world to that of educational theatre as a director, Heugatter-Mathias accepted the role of Catherine, the leading lady in MLP's summer Shakespeare all-female production of "The Taming of the Shrew."

She also took the position as faculty advisor to Alpha Psi Omega, the honorary theatrical fraternity. She hopes that as a professor she can integrate theatre into the Centenary experience of each student on campus, while her focus within the department is for students to "re-learn how to PLAY" by imagining the "exciting, honest theatre that can be created." Heugatter-Mathias is looking forward to working with the supportive network of students she found at Centenary and expects to learn from their passion, independence, and self-motivation, which she believes is "exactly what will take you far in the arts community."

Part of her role as a professor at MLP was to help develop new policies (in collaboration with Hooper), which reflected the new student-focused mission. Some of her goals for the department include bringing in guest artists and professionals to provide students with "strong preparation for the real world post-graduation." She presented these aspirations at a department-wide meeting held on August 25th with grace, professionalism and, more importantly, excitement.

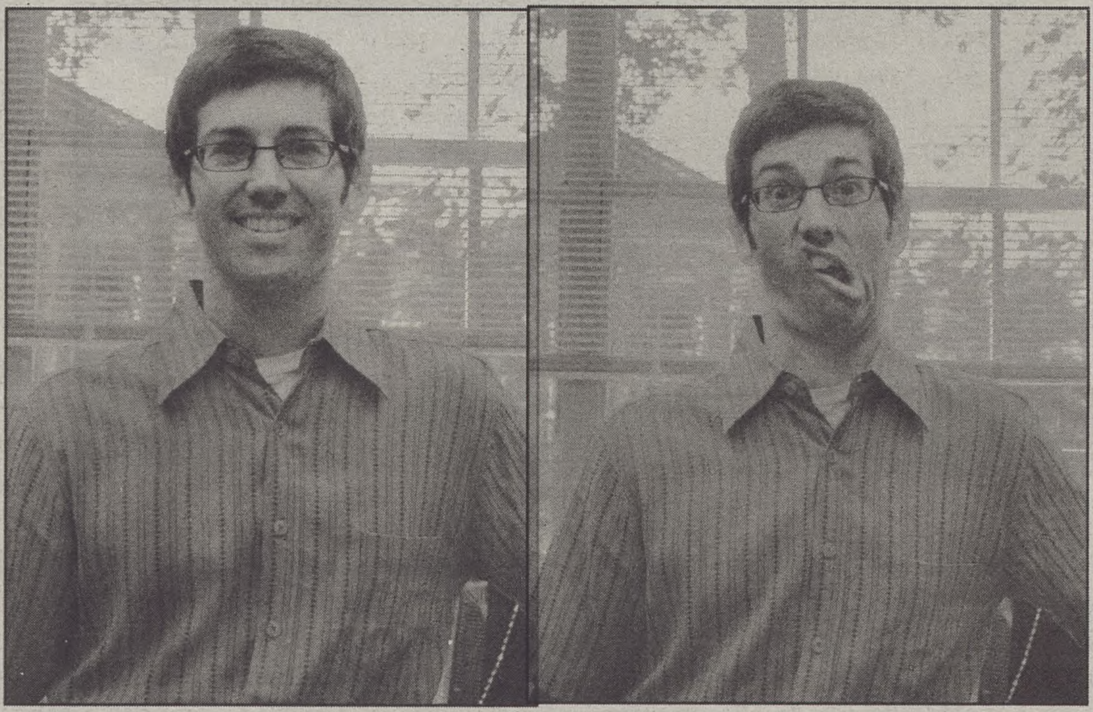
The following evening, Heugatter-Mathias held auditions for "On the Verge, or the Geography of Yearning," her directorial debut at MLP, and encouraged students to make bold choices. She describes the show as a "comedic romp through the jungles and howling ice-storms of Terra Incognita, an uncharted territory." The plot: three Victorian lady explorers travel through time until they find themselves in 1955, a strange new world. Although Heugatter-Mathias has already made an exceptional impression on those who have had the opportunity to meet her, she feels as though her first show at MLP as a director will impress because "every audience member will find some strong connections with at least one of the characters, and will leave the theatre with optimism about the hope and independence of the human spirit."

Certainly she has a legacy to follow, especially with the playhouse celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, but the department is confident in selecting Emily Heugatter-Mathias to take the reigns of MLP and lead them into the next fifty years.

Editor's note: the following teacher profiles on pages 6-9 are just part one of introducing Centenary's new faculty and staff. All photos were taken by staff photographer Emily DeLatin.

Dr. Troy Messina, new Professor of Physics, wants more majors and plays the drums

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor



Congo: Could you briefly introduce yourself to our readers?

Messina: My name is Troy Messina and I grew up around Dallas, Texas. I went to elementary and high school there, and then to college at the University of Texas. I got my Bachelors, Masters and PhD all at the University of Texas in Austin, all in physics. After that, went to Princeton and then did some work in a research lab.

Congo: Why did you choose Centenary?

Messina: It was a mixture of a lot of things. For a long time, I've had a fascination with teaching, even though I've been in state school pretty much throughout my career. It's a bit different to what I've been exposed to, but as long as I remember, that's what I wanted to do. So, the opportunity just came up and I took it.

Congo: What is your impression of our school so far?

Messina: I love it so far! Students have already come by to welcome me and everyone that works here has welcomed me.

Everyone is so friendly, and I'm just not used to it. When you come to a state school, you first have to figure out who to talk to, and once that's done, it's hard to find the person you're looking for because the campus is huge and they might be hidden away at some office. And here people point you to the right place immediately.

Congo: What do you think will be your greatest challenge at Centenary?

Messina: Well, like I said, my background isn't teaching, so it will take some transition from working at a research lab to being a teacher. Hopefully, it won't be a big problem. I have to develop effective methods, help the students as much as I can.

Congo: What was your college experience like as a student?

Messina: I was a number in a system. University of Texas has one of the largest student populations, about 50,000, maybe 49,000 undergraduate students. You just find a niche and meet people.

In the lower division courses, you're making new friends every semester because you're taking all those courses like English and languages and philosophy… but there are always new in the classes. However, once you get into the upper division, it changes.

I actually graduated with only 10 or 15 physics students, so once you get to your junior and senior level courses, it's kind of similar. It's fun and you can make some lasting friendships. I still talk to some people I graduated with.

Congo: What are some of your hobbies, things you like to do after work?

Messina: Well, I'm a musician. I've played drums for about 20 years… I've been playing in bands since I was about 15 or 16. The New York area was very good for that. When people hear you're playing drums, they say, 'hey, why don't you play in our band?' I was playing in several bands there.

Actually, while in New York, I was playing in a band with a friend of mine from college in Austin. We both wound up in that area purely by coincidence. Also, I jog, ride my bicycle, garden… More tame things (he laughs).

Congo: What are some of your pet peeves, things that make you angry?

Messina: I'm pretty mild mannered. One thing that really bothers me in society in general is people who talk about things they haven't done any personal investigation into. For example, they'll talk about politics but will say only things they hear randomly instead of investigating what the truth is. I like people who think and can form opinions of their own.

Congo: Can you tell us a nerdy physics joke?

Messina: (he laughs) I'm sure I know a lot but I'm bad at remembering jokes.

Congo: Imagine you're stuck in an elevator for five hours with your least liked person in the world. How do you survive it?

Messina: I don't know… Like I said, I'm pretty mild mannered, so it takes a lot to get me upset. And I don't have any enemies… I would probably just be quiet and wait.

Congo: Is there anything you would like to say to the Centenary community?

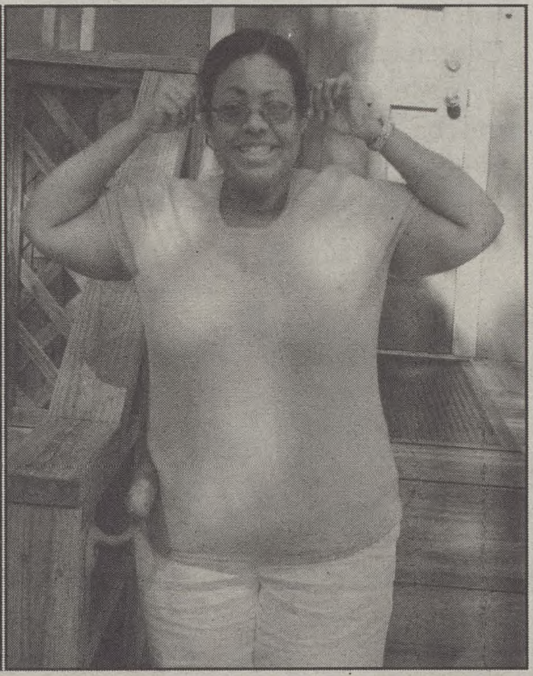
Messina: Study physics! We need more majors!

New Director of Intercultural Affairs April Valentine encourages students to study abroad

Jessica Brown
Staff Writer

April Valentine is a name everyone should get familiar with on the Centenary campus, especially if you have any interest in studying abroad. April as she prefers to be called is the new Director of Intercultural affairs. She will be busy the first couple of weeks of school with new international students and students returning home from abroad but everyone should make the point of going and introducing themselves to her during the first semester.

April Valentine comes to Centenary from Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota where she received her undergraduate degree in French and has served the past two years as the intercultural affairs director. Mrs. Valentine has experiences both as a student studying abroad and a teacher and adviser to students studying abroad. When I talked with Mrs. Valentine, or April as she will soon correct you, she was easy to talk to and very enthusiastic about her new job. Having taught French for a couple of years she made the career change to intercultural affairs in spring of 2005. We talked about her goals to publicize study abroad more on campus and try to get more centenary students to study abroad. "While the May module is an excellent start to studying abroad, students really need to stay abroad for a semester or a year if possible."



Mrs. Valentine's goals include extending more opportunities to Centenary students for studying abroad and plans to try and increase the number of students studying abroad. "There are many English speaking programs that students don't know about. Study abroad is not strictly for students wishing to pursue a language but also for students to leave their comfort zone and experience a different culture". The program in Hong Kong, China is English speaking and the university is a liberal arts college as well. The Irish American Scholars program in Northern Ireland has a number of different universities to choose from some of which are specifically for those studying to be a teacher. Some of the international universities are located in quaint country side towns while others are located in the center or booming metropolises.

So stop by when you get a chance and welcome Mrs. Valentine to Centenary. If you are a sophomore now is the time to go and figure out where you want to study abroad. There are an abundance of opportunities waiting for you on Mrs. Valentine's desk and she is as willing as ever to help you.

Editor's note: pages 6-9 are just part one of introducing Centenary's new faculty and staff. All photos were taken by staff photographer Emily DeLatin.

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Meet Dr. Mary Robert Garrett, Centenary Chemistry's new Organic professor

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

Congo: Could you please introduce yourself?

Garrett: My name is Mary Robert Garrett and I'm a new Organic professor in the Chemistry department. I'm originally from Kentucky but I did my undergraduate work at Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and then went to the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill for graduate school.

Congo: What did you do before you came to Centenary?

Garrett: I just finished my PhD in May. For the last five years I've been working in a lab at UNC doing organic synthesis.

Congo: Why did you decide on coming to Centenary?

Garrett: Really, it was everything about Centenary form the beginning – the interview process – that won me over. The people were amazing and very welcoming, were there to answer any of my questions. And when I came I got the feeling that people wanted to get to know me and actually wanted me here... and not only as a professor and a colleague, but as a friend. So, I just got a very welcoming, comforting feeling from everyone here.

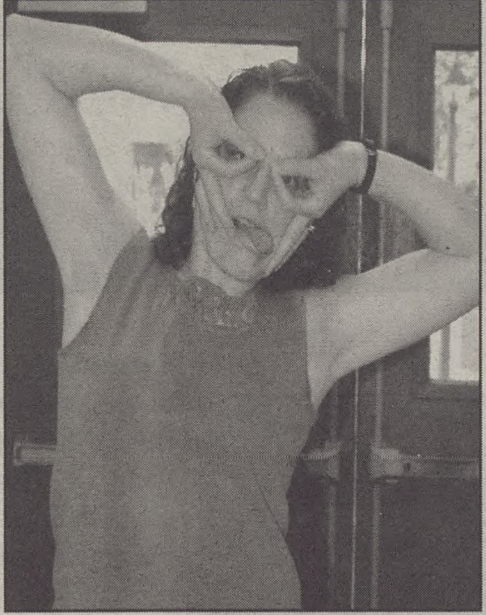
Congo: What was your college experience like as a student?

Garrett: I had wonderful college experience! My school was small, like Centenary. We had about 1,800 students. What I found so impressive was a mixture of the cultural diversity we had at Macalester and the relationships with the professors. I felt like I could go to any of them any time and ask them questions, and I felt like they really wanted to prepare me for my future and help me individually. Not like my experience at UNC, where it's just a bunch of students and I feel like they don't get that connection with the professor. They don't get to know their students and their goals, and they don't try to guide them, like I feel we should be doing.

Congo: You studied in France for a while. What made you decide to do that?

Garrett: I was a French minor and I took a program offered through Boston University called the Paris Internship Program: I took eight weeks of classes.

It's hard as a science major to study abroad because you have so many requirements that fit in better at certain times throughout the course of your education. It was really nice to take eight weeks of classes that were not chemistry-related, to see another side. Whereas, after that I did and an eight week internship, which was more chemistry and biology based. I worked at an ophthalmology hospital cultivating eye cells. So, it was neat because I could learn about the art and architecture but also learn some chemistry and biology in the lab while I was there.



Congo: What are some of your hobbies, things you like to do after work?

Garrett: I like to run – I've been running since I was six. And I've been in races since I was eleven. I ran all through middle school, high school, college, and then ran a marathon after I graduated college. Now I have some back problems so I'm not able to run as much as I did. Besides running, I like to watch movies, play games...

Congo: What are some of your pet peeves, things that invoke your wrath (especially those that come from your students)?

Garrett: (she thinks a while) I guess it's just close-mindedness in general. I enjoy people who are open minded. Being disrespectful is one thing I don't like.

Congo: Imagine you had a time machine but you could use it only to go to one place and come back. Where and when would you go?

Garrett: I think it would be my first day moving into college. I remember being so ready to get to college and it was so wonderful to meet different people and different cultures.

I remember there were three girls from Jamaica in my suite and I was in school in Minnesota, and even in September they would be wearing earmuffs and gloves. (she laughs) I think I really just love the excitement, the feeling of new!

Congo: If you could be any chemical element, what would you be and why?

Garrett: Probably oxygen. It's one of the many sources of life... and it's pretty important.

Congo: Is there anything you would like to say to the Centenary community?

Garrett: I just want to say thank you for being welcoming and I look forward to helping the students grow through this educational process and to guiding them. Not everyone understands organic chemistry but I want for people to at least find it interesting and enjoy what they're doing.

The Conglomerate reviews Shreveport-Bossier City's best bars, clubs, and pubs

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

For newly minted seniors and those transfer students lucky enough to come to Shreveport at the age of 21, opportunities actually abound for nighttime and weekend fun.

The cluster of clubs and bars just down the road from Centenary at the Kings Highway and Youree Drive junction has just enough redneck to make the atmosphere friendly but not obnoxious. The appeal of Flanagan's, Sharpie's, The Phillin Station, The Cub, and Legends lies in the live music and drink specials (mostly for ladies and college students). Sharpie's and Flanagan's feature live bands often enough, while The Cub is home only to a jukebox but a nice patio, and the location of all has the crucial benefit of Murrell's right next door for late-night snacking.

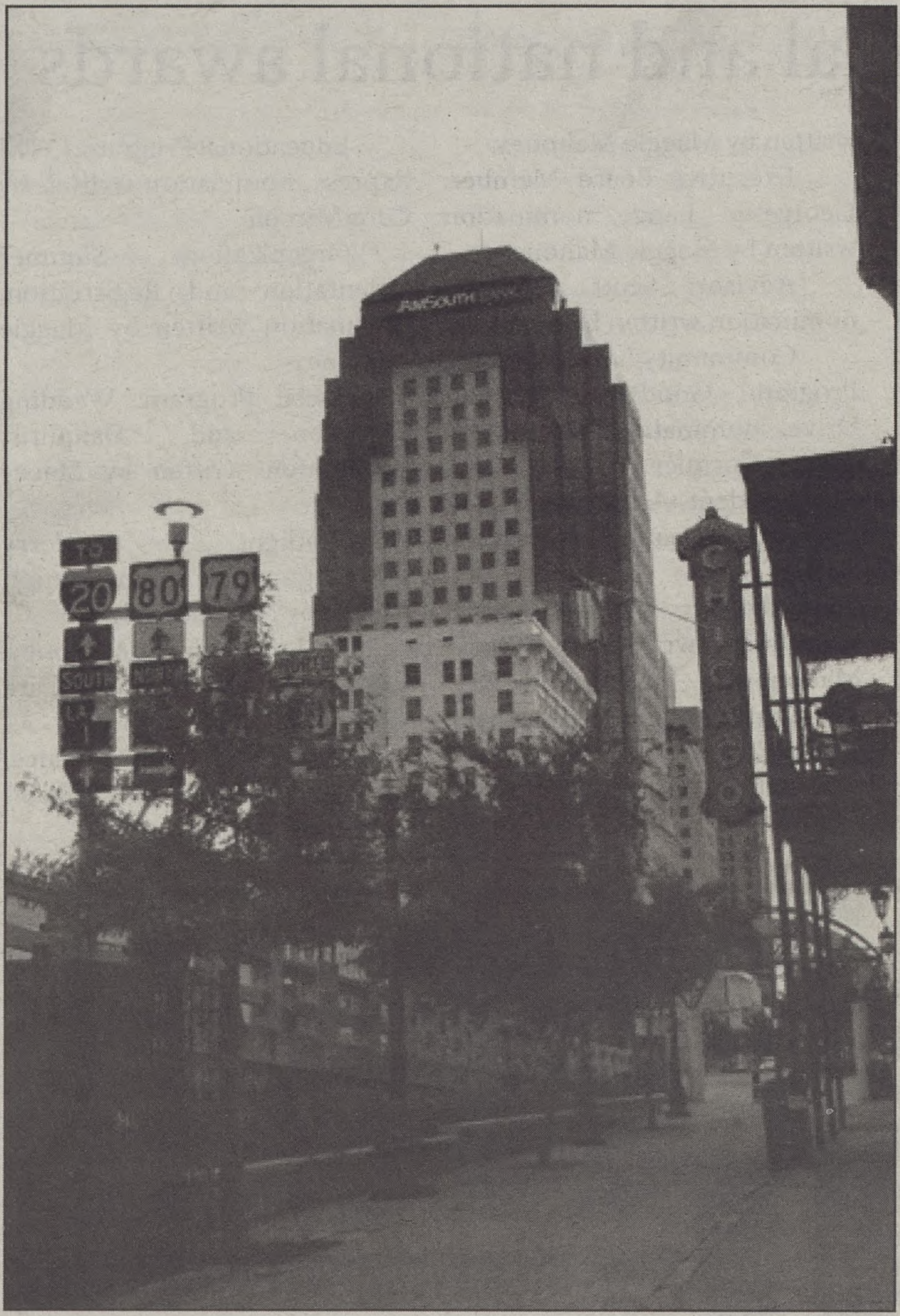
FUNNYBONE
Comedy Nite Club
THIS WEEK
JON REEP 'THE HEMI GUY'
NEXT WEEK TODD JOHNSON

Central Station is "a historical train station by day, and a four bar club at night," aptly described by senior Kat Michiels. Fellow senior James King corroborates on the "fun drag shows." As Shreveport's most well known and probably most fun gay club, Central Station often features entertaining singers, a crowded dance floor, and a "not so crowded country section" according to Michiels.

Located at 1025 Marshall Street, the only drawback is the difficulty some people have in locating the place – but call (318) 222-2216 for more information.

The Funny Bone Comedy Club in downtown Shreveport is unique in its brand of entertainment, but draws mixed reviews. Comedians range from the unknown to people famous from "Sex and the City" appearances, but all have the common trait of vulgarity. "The Funny Bone provides a place where stories about sex, drugs, and cheating on your wife are legal and funny," said senior Holly Williams. Whether or not that's your cup of tea (or vodka martini, thanks to the occasional two-drink minimum), the club does have an 18+ night at least once a week. (www.funnybone.usa/com/shreveport/default.htm)

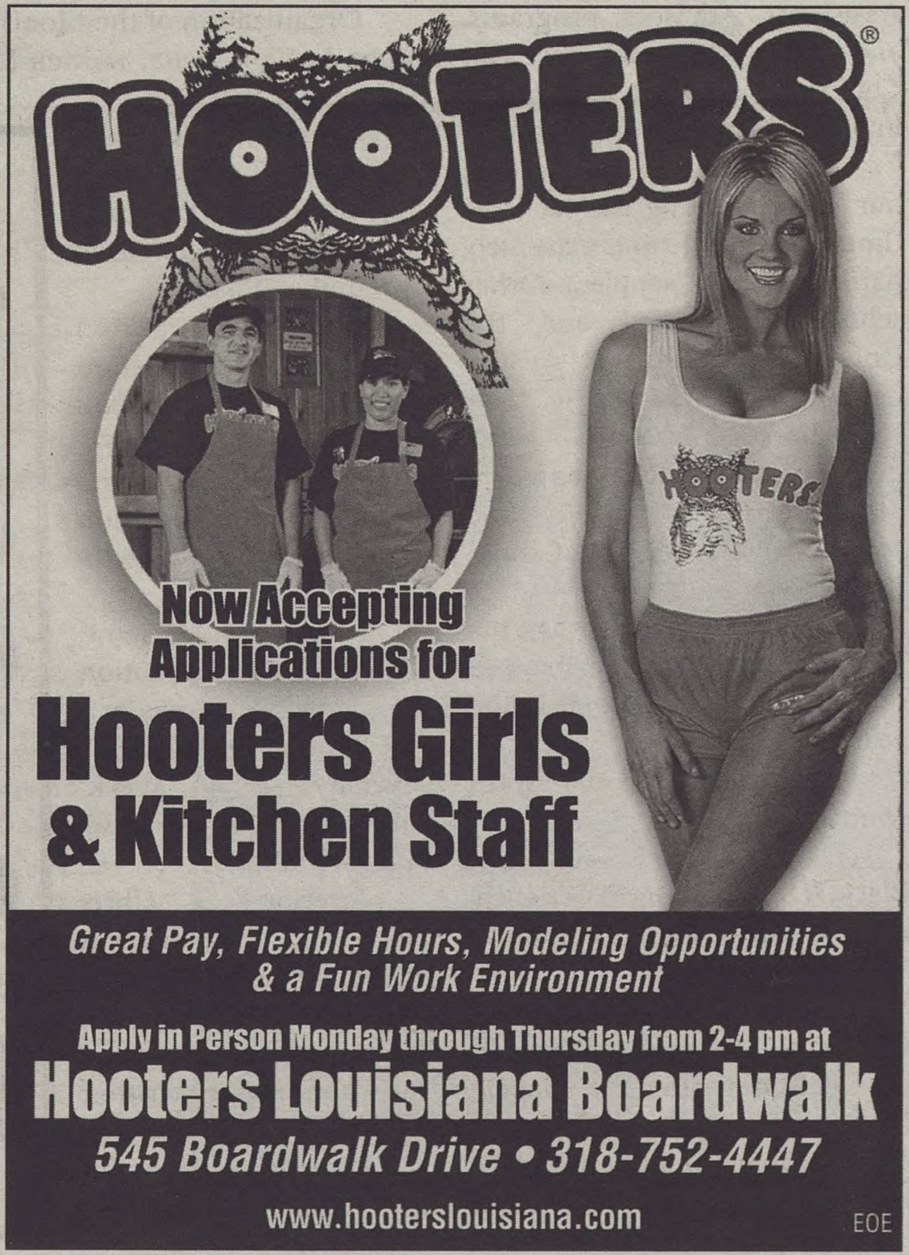
O'Brien's is a recently opened genuine Irish pub that can be found at the Boardwalk, across from Copeland's Cheesecake Bistro. Decorated with authentic Guinness advertisements and featuring the quintessentially English "fish and chips" on the menu, O'Brien's is a perfect haven for any Anglophile or true football fan. True football being soccer – the likes of Setanta Sports and Fox Soccer Network means MLS, England Premiership, and other international league soccer games are actually available to the viewing public in a decent location for the first time in Shreveport-Bossier (other than the SUB, when the Centenary soccer team commandeers the TV).



all photographs by
Emily DeLatin

The Boardwalk, just acros the river from downtown, provides all kinds of daytime and nighttime entertainment. The newly opened Cheescake Bistro offers all sorts of delicious desserts while clothing retail shops cater to every taste, young or old, male or female. The likes of The Chocolate Crocodile also ensure sweet treats in the course of walking and shopping, as do all the restaurants along the river. Joe's Crab Shack, San Francisco Oven, Buffalo Wild Wings, Hooters, and many others all face the gleaming riverfront so that patrons enjoy a nice view with their meal. Buffalo Wild Wings is particularly popular among sports fans for its cheap beer and unbelievably huge-sized televisions.

Downtown Shreveport often gives the impression that there's more to this city than initially meets the eye – the bright lights of the casinos and the weekend hot dog vendors found on street corners show that Shreveport can indeed be a bustling, vibrant city. Chicago, with its multiple levels of varied music, was long the main dance nightclub; the opening of the Phoenix Underground two years ago has changed that, although the music in Phoenix's spacious and well-decorated interior is less diverse. Stray Cat's is the real gem of downtown, open and serving hot food at all hours and privy to the likes of actor John Cho when he filmed "Harold and Kumar 2" here last year. The best part of the tiny bar, however, lies in its jukebox: armed with quarters, patrons can play anything from cheesy '80s music to classic rock songs to '90s bubblegum pop – the bar staff doesn't mind if you sing and dance along.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EOE

National Residence Hall Honorary and Residence Life honored with regional and national awards

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

This year, the Centenary Residence Life office and chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary, which is an organization that represents Centenary on a regional and national level, had the distinction of being the recipient of 10 national and 30 regional awards since the start of 2007.

To win the awards, members of the NRHH and the OTM bid writing team sent nominations that could be about members of Residence Life, Resident Assistants, Advisors, programs, and any other activity that Centenary students participate in, locally or otherwise.

To put this in perspective, our NRHH program at this time consists of nine extremely hard-working people. Other schools, like LSU and the University of Texas at Austin, have over 200 people in their NRHH organizations, while the Centenary NRHH has won more awards (nationally and regionally) than either of those schools combined this year. In fact, Centenary College has the most national OTM winners in the nation as of this point in the year.

Among the national award winners this year:

Diversity Program: Pitch Black: A Blind Dining Experience, nomination written by Jennifer Wilson

Community: The Fitness Center Student Workers, nomination written by Maggie Mahoney

Organization: The Resident Assistant Staff, nomination written by Josh Coco

Spotlight: Centenary May Modules, nomination written by Maggie Mahoney

Student: Mindy McKoin, nomination written by Amos Sit

Executive Board Member: Josh Coco, nomination written by Cody Andrews

First-year Student: Cara Miccoli, nomination written by Josh Coco

Resident Assistant: Alysha Wallace, nomination written by Amos Sit

Student of the Month: Suneera Kompelli, written by Amos Sit

Organization of the Month: Alpha Epsilon Delta, written by Allison Cormier

The Regional Winners:

Diversity Program: Glory, nomination written by Jennifer Wilson

Community: Sexton Hall Council, nomination written by Allison Cormier

Organization: Outreach, nomination written by Georgette Lang

Resident Assistant: Nicole Turner, nomination written by Nick Rougely

Spotlight: RHA Diversity Week, nomination written by Maggie Mahoney

Advisor: Chris Ciochetti, nomination written by Amos Sit

Community Service Program: Centenary Fun Run, nomination written by Gabriel Silvas

Diversity Program: Day of Silence, nomination written by Maggie Mahoney

Executive Board Member: Georgette Lang, nomination written by Maggie Mahoney

Advisor: Scott Chirhart, nomination written by Amos Sit

Community Service Program: Goodwill Donation Drive, nomination written by Allison Cormier

Resident Assistant: Stacey Stokes, nomination written by Gabriel Silvas

Advisor: Kevin Wagner, nomination written by Maggie Mahoney

Community: Centenary NACURH Delegation, nomination written by Cody Andrews

Educational Program: OTM Express, nomination written by Cara Miccoli

Organization: Summer Orientation and Registration, nomination written by Maggie Mahoney

Social Program: Wedding Crashers and Daiquiris, nomination written by Stacey Stokes

Spotlight: Jerry Whittington, nomination written by Nick Rougely

Student: Maggie Mahoney, nomination written by Cara Miccoli.

Spotlight: Luke Spence, nomination written by Allison Cormier

The Conglomerate wants you!

The Conglomerate, Centenary College's independent, student-run newspaper is looking for staff writers with any interest to cover news from many areas, including campus-related, state, national, international, arts and entertainment, and sports.

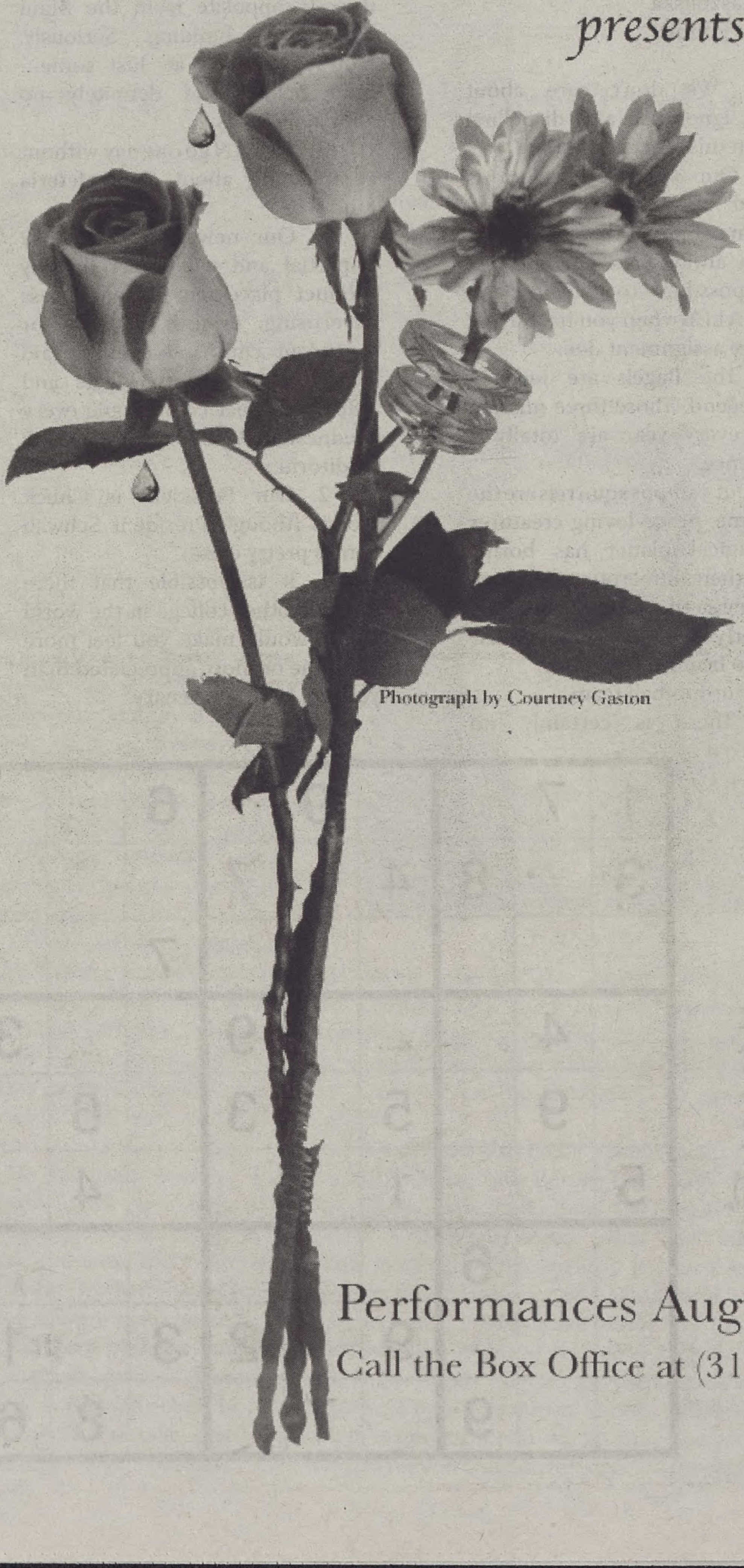
Come to our first meeting on Sunday, September 2nd, at 9:00 pm in the newspaper office on the third floor of the SUB

Any questions can be sent to paper@centenary.edu or Versha Sharma, Editor-in-Chief, at vsharma@centenary.edu

Centenary College's

Marjorie Lyons Playhouse

presents



Photograph by Courtney Gaston

ROMEO & JULIET

and

The Taming of the Shrew

Performances August 16th - September 1st

Call the Box Office at (318) 869-5242 for ticket reservations

HOROSCOPES

Aries (3/21-4/20) Please stop being so nauseating with your boy/girlfriend, it's… well, nauseating.

Taurus (4/21-5/21) Roll down a hill, you'll feel better.

Gemini (5/22-6/21) YouTube gives you cancer.

Cancer (6/22-7/23) Stop complaining and do something about it.

Leo (7/24-8/23) Don't hook up your television, maybe this year you will finish everything on time.

Virgo (8/24 –9/23) Call your mother, she's worried about you.

Libra (9/24-10/22) Stop calling those poor freshmen in Chirhart's class and get a life.

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) If you stick Twizzlers up your nose and dance around in the rain you may improve your chances of finding a boy/girlfriend this year…I'm sure.

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) No one cares if your high school was the 12th in the nation.

Capricorn (12/22 –1/20) If you see a leprechaun in a tree, lure it down with that special "leprachaun flute" that your great great great grandfather left you.

Aquarius (1/21-2/19) Please put your shirt on.

Pisces (2/20-3/20) Thank your mother for making you gold pants.

Top 10 most common misconceptions first-years have about Centenary

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

10. We don't care about fighting ignorance and dispelling common misconceptions.

9. Our sprinkler system is operated by a highly advanced quantum computer that will ensure you can always take the shortest route possible to your class, ESPECIALLY when you have a test or a huge assignment due.

8. The Bagels are just an urban legend. Those three missing virgins every year are totally a coincidence.

7. Our campus squirrels are the most tame, peace-loving creatures this magical planet has borne. Among their numerous talents are predicting sand storms and helping the elderly cross the street. Their tears also heal flesh wounds.

6. Our football team.

5. There is certainly no abortion clinic directly opposite from the Main Admissions building. Seriously. Nothing to look at. Just some… corn fields. And definitely no abortion clinics.

4. We CAN go one day without complaining about the cafeteria food.

3. Our newspaper is totally impartial and will never do any product placement or shameless advertising, even if it's just for a student club and even if said club teaches you to juggle and helps you meet cool people every Wednesday at 7:30pm in Kilpatrick Auditorium.

2. Our President is Chuck Norris (though President Schwab comes pretty close).

1. It is possible that there exists another college in the world which would make you feel more welcome or more appreciated than you will be at Centenary.

Sudoku

1	7			9		6		
3		8	4		7			
						7		
	4				9			3
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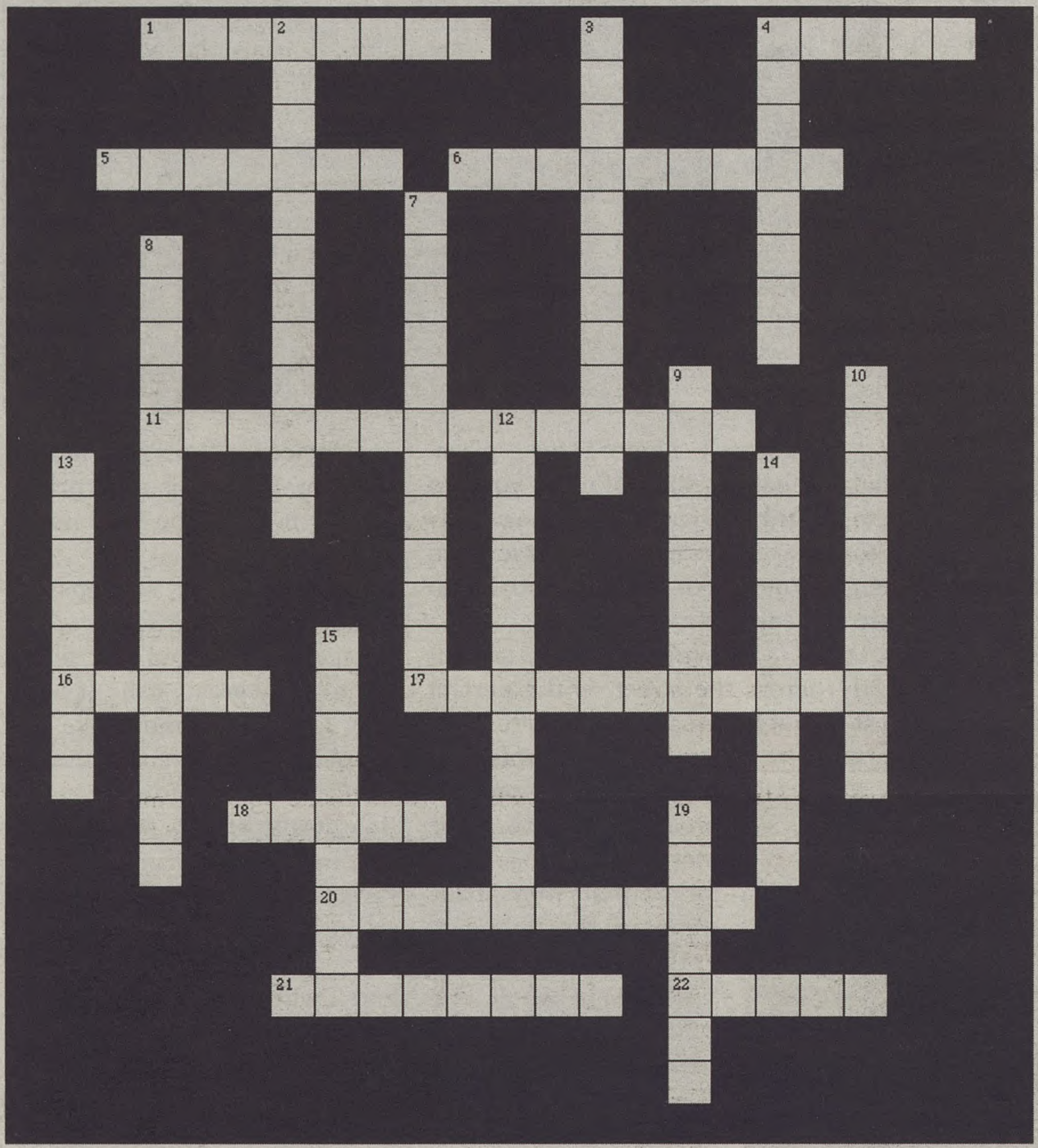
CROSSWORD PUZZLE: CINEMAGIC!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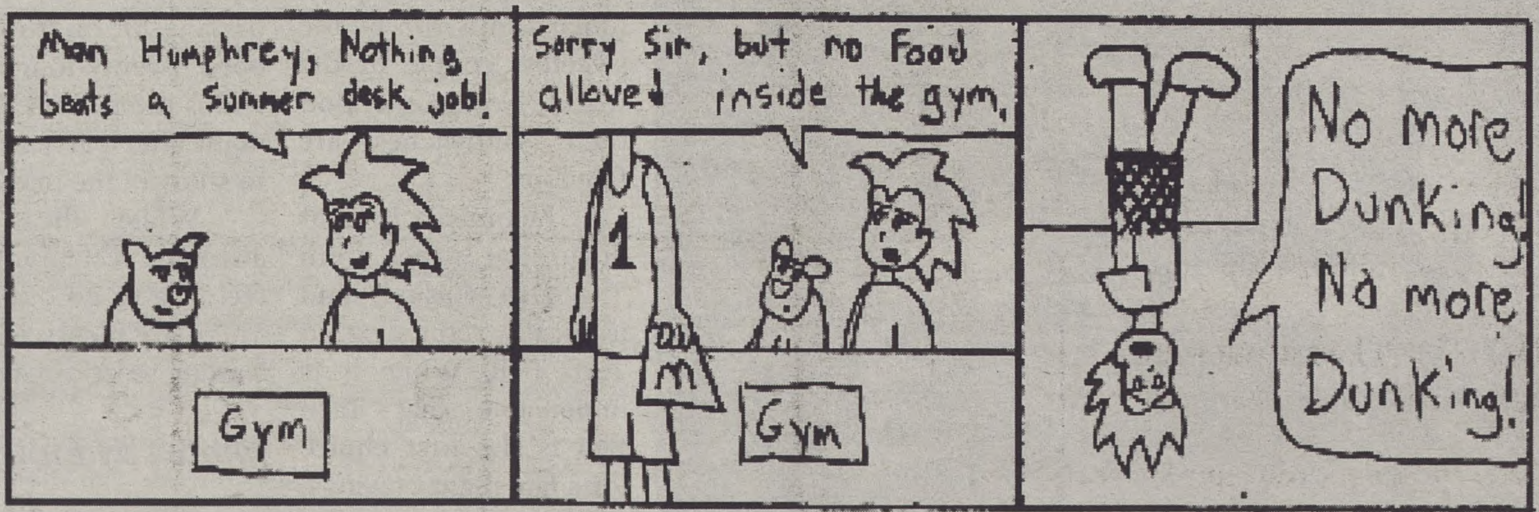
ACROSS
1 Movie about an unhappily married woman who expresses herself through pies
4 ______ the Third
5 Harry Potter and the Order of the _________
6 Remake about a teenage detective
11 Catherine Zeta Jones and Aaron Eckhart film
16 Bart, Lisa and Maggie's Dad
17 Animated film about a rat that can cook
18 28 _______ Later
20 License to Wed star
21 Remake of a cartoon about a dog with super powers
22 Michael Moore's latest documentary

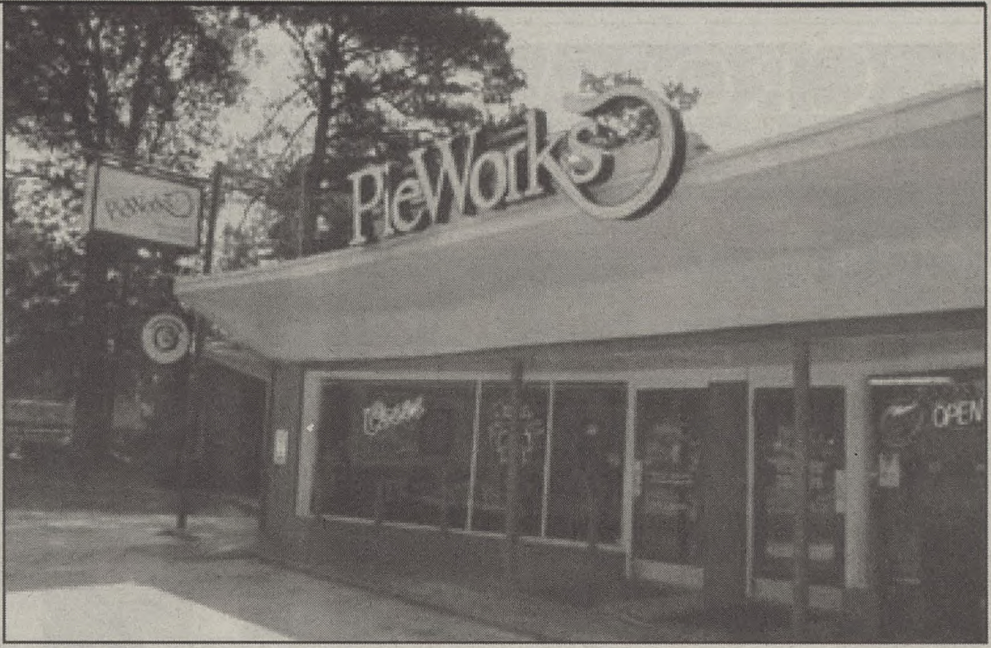
DOWN
2 Remake of a popular 80's cartoon
3 Live Free or Die Hard star
4 New hit comedy following three highschool friends on their way to a party
7 The Rise of the ________ _________
8 Third segment in the action movie series starring Matt Damon
9 Comedy starring Grey's Anatomy's Katherine Heigl
10 Pirates of the Carribean star
12 Becoming Jane star
13 Evan __________
14 I Now Pronounce You ________ and __________
15 Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst superhero series
19 Animated movie about a surfing penguin

A Day with Christ

By Chris Christ


Man Humphrey, Nothing beats a summer desk job!
Gym
Sorry Sir, but no Food allowed inside the gym.
1
M
Gym
No more Dunking! No more Dunking!

Shreveport offers quality restaurants and late-night eateries for those under 21 to enjoy



Courtney Delaney
Layout Assistant

Whether you are up late studying or just need a break from school its always a relief to get off campus for an hour or two. To a college student though, what with the costs of tuition, housing, and books, finding a place to eat or hang out off campus is tricky and expensive. Luckily there are plenty of restaurants within a reasonable distance of campus.

Joe's, located right across King's Highway is a frequently visited by Centenary students and is reasonably priced. Its menu is filled with the traditional diner food, with a few extra goodies that you will have four years to test out and fall in love with. Its also open late for all those night owls. Not to mention the jukebox is packed with some of the best music, so bring a lot of quarters.

Pieworks, also located across the street, is most students' choice for pizza. Whatever kind of pizza you can think up Pieworks can most likely make. While it's a bit pricier than Dominos or Pizza Hut, its worth the few extra bucks.

Lil' Joe's
GRILL - TAVERN
ADDITIONAL
LUNCH
SPECIAL $3 50
24 HR VIDEO POKER
$1 WELL
WINE - DRAFT
6 - 9PM

Strawn's, another restaurant across the street, is the perfect spot for breakfast. If you're lucky one of your professors may treat you to breakfast there one morning. Also, don't forget that they make some of the best pies in the world, so pick up a slice or a whole one whenever the craving strikes.

The Deli Casino is right down the street, directly after the Youree/Kings intersection. It's a sandwich shoppe that is open strictly for lunch and is run by the sweetest couple in the world. Not to mention their sandwiches are fabulous.

Tacomania is right down the street from The Deli Casino, and ironically right next to Taco Bell. While it is undeniable that Taco Bell is the first choice for a late night cravings, Tacomania is the number one choice for "Mexican" food in the area. Since it is a bit pricier though it would be wise not to visit too often.

Ichiban is a Japanese restaurant down Youree, which is reasonably priced and serves some really great sushi. It has a very laid back atmosphere and the people are extremely nice.

Don't forget the Boardwalk either, while a bit more of a drive than the other restaurants on the list, you can go out to eat at one of the several restaurants down by the river and then catch a movie or go shopping. Just be wary of the crowds of annoying preteens and screaming children who have escaped their parents.

IHOP is the restaurant that you will always find at least one other Centenary student in. Located in the Wal-Mart parking lot on Youree, IHOP is open twenty-four hours a day and is the perfect spot for a late night after party or a quiet spot to study in the midst of exams.

While these are some awesome restaurants in the area feel free to go out and explore. There are plenty of other places waiting to be discovered.

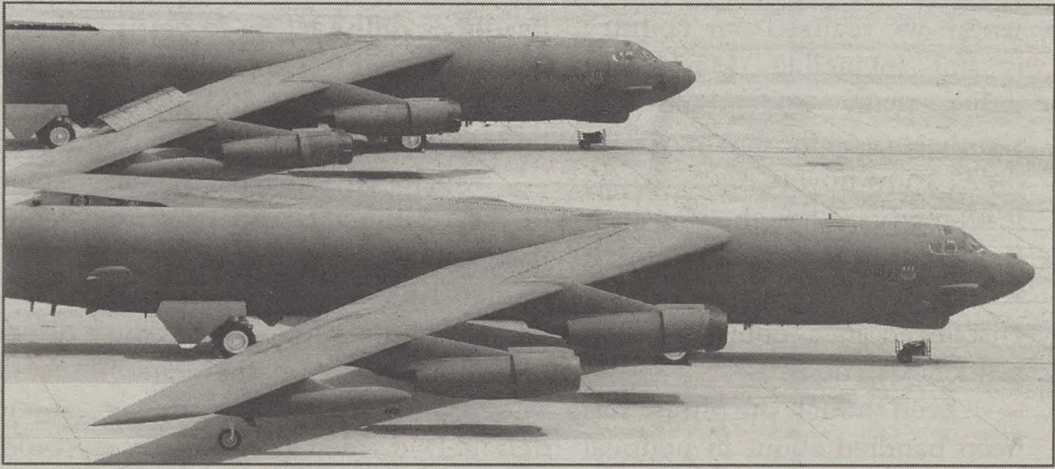
photos by Emily DeLatin

The CONGLOMERATE

September 7, 2007 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 2

Nuclear warheads mistakenly transported to Barksdale

Rhagen Russell
Copy Editor



B-52s on the tarmac at Barksdale Air Force Base. photo courtesy of Shane Bevel/The Shreveport Times

A Boeing B-52 Stratofortress bomber inadvertently loaded with six nuclear warheads traveled across the central United States last week before landing at Barksdale Air Force Base, the Military Times reported Wednesday. The plane left Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, on August 30th with 12 Advanced Cruise Missiles (ACMs) attached to the underside of its wing. The six missiles in question carried W80-1 warheads and were not discovered until 10 hours after the plane landed in Louisiana, according to a timeline the Air Force submitted to the House and Senate. The incident prompted immediate action by Air Force officials, who admit it constitutes a "serious breach of rules," as well as immediate criticism from politicians and citizens.

"These reports are deeply disturbing," Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, told Michael Hoffman of the Military Times. "The American people, our friends, and our potential adversaries must be confident that the highest standards are in place when it comes to our nuclear arsenal."

The service-wide investigation of the mistake is headed by Maj. Gen. Douglas Raaberg, director of Air and Space Operations at Air Combat Command Headquarters. Pending the investigation, the squadron commander in charge of munitions crews at Minot has been relieved of duties, reported Hoffman. Disciplinary actions to this point have also included the temporary decertification of crew members involved in loading the weapons.

A Pentagon spokesman stated at a news conference that Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and President Bush had been informed of the incident last Friday, the Washington Post reported. The event was not made public until the Military Times received information from Minot officers who asked to remain unidentified.

Don Shepperd, a retired Air Force major general and military analyst for CNN, called the incident a "major gaffe." He went on to say that the Unites States had clearly violated a treaty from the Cold War that forbid the flying of nuclear weapons. USA Today reported, however, that non-proliferation treaty experts denied that any international treaty was breached. In 1991, the Bush administration ordered that bombers were not to take off carrying warheads as a gesture to Russia. This is the first time since 1968 that the U.S. has been publicly shown to transport nuclear weapons on bombers, but it has used cargo aircraft to do so.

The B-52's flight was intended to relocate non-nuclear ACMs to Barksdale, as the Defense Department had decided to decommission 400 of the missiles. Experts on nuclear weapons are confused as to why crews overlooked several warning signs, including the differing weight of the missiles with nuclear yield as well as the distinctive red signs they carry. Hans Kristensen, director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists, told the Military Times that the crew had to have signed each of the warheads out of its respective storage bunker and overlooked several security checks.

Air Force spokesman Lt. Col. Ed Thomas maintained that the American people were not endangered at any point by the transfer of the weapons, as they were under Air Force control at all times. Former Defense Department official Steve Fetter said that the warheads' safeguards left no risk for detonation and only a plutonium leak would have been possible in a crash. However, defense experts have expressed great concern that the warheads were unaccounted for during the flight, which lasted over three hours. In addition, the pilots and crew of the aircraft were unaware of the weapons' presence – critical information that would have influenced procedures in the event that any problems occurred with the plane.

The investigation into the incident is expected to go on for several weeks. In the meantime, the Air Force has announced that flights of bombers and fighters will be cancelled on September 14 so that procedures may be reviewed.

"It is absolutely inexcusable that the Air Force lost track of these nuclear warheads, even for a short period of time," said Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., of the House Homeland Security Committee. "Nothing like this has ever been reported before and we have been assured for decades that it was impossible."

Letter from the editor: 9/11 anniversary is an occasion for remembering and learning

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

I was in Spanish class at Bolton High School in Alexandria when the first plane hit the twin towers on 9/11. The bell rang, I went to my locker to get my Algebra II book, and Branson Sparks went running down the hall, literally screaming, "THE PENTAGON'S ON FIRE!"

Bemused, I made it to the next class, where we watched the news for a grand total of 10 minutes before Ms. Cutshall decided we ought to be learning our math instead of watching people jumping out of windows.

Other teachers took a more liberal view – for the rest of the day, the debate squad crammed into the understandably political debate coach's classroom. While amateur recordings of the planes crashing into the buildings and debris falling everywhere played on the news, students talked about who was going with who to the Homecoming dance.

It still seems surreal today; I don't know how we managed such seemingly trivial conversation in the face of the attack, but we did. 9/11 was shocking - an unpleasant jerk back to reality where we realized our country is not invincible. Maybe we didn't really understand the significance on the day, maybe we didn't know how to react, maybe it seemed far enough away even though it was in our country. After all, we were comfortably ensconced in a Louisiana high school classroom.

Even though the phrase has been bandied about in political and cultural arenas so much that some people are sick of hearing it, it's hard to believe that it has actually been six years since 9/11.

In those six years, the Bush administration has started a war on terror, with battles raging in Afghanistan and in Iraq, and made key decisions about domestic wiretapping and investigation that has changed the political landscape of our time.

9/11 is a defining date for us – we were at exactly the right age to remember the details and realize the importance of what had happened. Newspaper headlines didn't let us forget it, what with phrases like "the day of infamy" and "the first attack on U.S. soil since Pearl Harbor."

Much analysis has been made of the resurgence of patriotism that united the country in the immediate aftermath – and the current administration's seeming failure at keeping that unity intact. Bipartisan debate has definitely divided the Congress and the American public over what policies are acceptable in fighting terrorism.

For those of us without friends or family in New York, who haven't felt the immediate impact of the attack, the anniversary is a time to remember how politics do affect our everyday lives. The foreign policy of the United States may mean a friend or loved one is sent off to fight in a war – and while 41% of Americans still believe that the war in Iraq started because Saddam Hussein was partially responsible for 9/11, we need to take the time to understand what happened on the day of infamy and what has happened because of it. Opinion polls conducted by Newsweek magazine on a cross-section of Americans periodically from September 2003-June 2007 show that 41-49% of respondents believe Hussein's regime was directly linked with the attacks.

Taking the time to learn about 9/11 and related policies could mean thumbing through the 9/11 commission report or just starting out on Google (but consider your sources carefully). Regardless, six years later and in light of upcoming elections, we should have a comprehensive understanding of perhaps the most significant event in recent years. To truly honor the day, we have to not only remember it, but learn about it and learn from it so as to make informed decisions for the future.

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Letter to the editor: Sex column encourages self-awareness

Dear Editor:

I am very glad that you defended Southern Elle's articles. I feel that we are encouraged to educate ourselves in so many aspects: to know our motivations, our goals, our morals. Yet we are not encouraged to know our sexual selves. Too many women I know are ashamed of their own bodies, ashamed of their sexual feelings. Sexuality is a normal facet of each person's personality. It is ingrained in us, and yet we are taught to ignore it. How can we know ourselves if we do not know this aspect of our being? Normal thoughts, feelings, and actions have become unspeakable. Why is it that society finds it so necessary to deny people of a pleasurable and confident sexuality and positive body image? Thank you for allowing Southern Elle's articles. I feel they are important, because they stimulate discussion and thought about one's own sexuality and they open social dialogues.

--Lauren R. Brown, Senior

FEATURES

Meet Annie Lau, a translation major from Hong Kong's Lingnan University

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

Conglomerate: Hi, could you introduce yourself?

Annie: Hi, my name is Annie Lau. Actually, Annie is just an English name. I have my own Chinese names: Lau, which is my Chinese family name, and On Lai, which are the other two characters. Normally, the Chinese have three characters for their name, the first one being the family name. "On" means Peace and "Lai" means Beauty, and this is a blessing from my parents. It's a custom that parents put a blessing or wish on their children's name so that they have a good future.

Congo: What's something about Hong Kong that you would like foreigners to know?

Annie: I think Hong Kong is a little bit more special than other parts of China. It used to be a British colony for one hundred years and it returned to China in 1997. Hong Kong has a mixed culture of East and West.

Congo: What's a common misconception that people tend to have about your country?

Annie: Well, I remember what Oscar [another exchange student] asked me one night when we went out to see a movie. We were dining out and he asked me a very odd question. He heard from his friend that the Chinese are very conservative, and that they think women have to only stay at home, take care of the family, take care of the child, that they shouldn't work, etc. It's true in some very remote areas of China or in some minorities, but in modern cities this doesn't exist anymore.

Congo: Is this your first time in the United States?

Annie: Yes.

Congo: Ohhh, how do you like it so far?

Annie: Well, in terms of transport, it's really inconvenient. In Hong Kong, we always take public transport. We have a very convenient transit system, so that without a car you can still go anywhere you want and fast. But in terms of classes and making friends, I think I like it better in the States. People in Hong Kong are a little bit cold. Especially in class - we are SO quiet. Whenever the professor asks a question, we keep silent, even if we know the answer. If you raise your hand and answer the question or shout it out, others will think that you want to show, that you're proud. Here, the students are much more open and they say the answer whenever they know it; whenever the professor asks for a volunteer, everyone wants to do it! Maybe our culture is a little bit subtle.

Congo: If you could be invisible for a day, which famous or non-famous person would you follow?

Annie: David Beckham.

Congo: Wow, that was a fast reply!

Annie: Well, I just hope to watch him play football and practice… It's so nice to see him shoot a goal. Actually, I've been admiring David Beckham since I was 13. And now I'm 21. I don't really play soccer, but I watch it because of him. One of the reasons I want to go to LA is because of David Beckham – he now plays soccer in LA!

Congo: Is there anything you want to say to the other Centenary students and faculty reading this paper?

Annie: Well… if anyone is interested in travelling around Asia, Hong Kong is a very good start. It's a very convenient place because it's in the middle of Southeast Asia, with a lot of brilliant countries around. It's a city that accommodates a lot of cultures, and it's really dynamic. Our government promotes Hong Kong by saying that Hong Kong is a "city that never sleeps." It's so entertaining and you'll have a lot of fun on your Eastern journey!

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The Conglomerate
2911 Centenary Blvd.
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Sex and the Centenary: Tips for navigating the pesky issues of college life, from contraception to comfort levels

Southern Elle
Staff Writer

Today, I'm here to address the first-years. Yes, those poor kids who get lost easily, drink too much, go to all the wrong classes, and generally garner a lot of annoyed looks. But I have good news for all you first years: you will get the hang of Centenary. You will figure out when you're supposed to be where, how to get there, what to bring, and what to say without embarrassing yourself. That's the first phenomenon of college -- learning. The second phenomenon, which ranks in my head somewhere near getting a degree and learning to hold your liquor, is the wonderful experience of sex.

Welcome to college - which, for many of you, is your first time without parents, curfews, and nosy best friends. The whole idea of entering this new world of dating, relationships, hookups, and sex probably scares you more than your professors. My job is to add to the already burgeoning list of advice that you're tired of hearing... and maybe even to help you navigate some of those pesky sex issues.

So here's the most straightforward advice I can give you. I hope it comes in handy (and not in that "Oops! I should have listened to her..." kind of way).

1) Respect your partner: make sure you have consent. One of every FOUR college women is sexually assaulted or raped. But they aren't the only ones – men can be sexually assaulted and raped, too. Sexual assault and rape happen on every campus; don't pretend Centenary is different. If your partner is too drunk to consent to sex, then it is rape. Don't take advantage of someone! Saying "no," crying, or any form of hesitation means your partner isn't willing or ready to have sex. When you go out, take friends with you. Don't lose control of your drinking; know your limits. Make sure you know and trust anyone who takes you home.

2) Know your partner's status. I don't mean his batting average, her GPA, or his list of ex's. Find out if your partner has been recently tested – it's your responsibility to ask! You don't deserve to come to college if you are stupid enough to believe that STDs don't exist on this campus. Gonorrhea, herpes, and Chlamydia happen – and they can stick with you a lot longer than a lousy FYE grade. Get tested by a urologist (men) or a gynecologist (women). The Philadelphia Center (2020 Centenary Blvd, 222-6633) offers free, confidential HIV mouth-swab tests. The test results come back in less than 10 minutes.

3) If you want to make it through the next four years, use contraception. Every year, a handful of students drop out to raise a kid or find themselves making a trip across the street to Hope Medical Clinic. It doesn't need to be you! The Health Services office (in the basement of Rotary) has a mailbox of free condoms next to the door. No one will watch you, badger you, or look down on you if you take some – they are for your safety. Condoms are the only contraception that can protect against STDs and HIV/AIDS. For best results, use them along with a hormonal (ex. birth control pill) method. Check out www.plannedparenthood.org for a full list of all birth control and the most effective way to use each type.

4) Use emergency contraception (aka EC/Plan B). Did your condom break? Forget to use one? This IS the back-up plan to save you from an expensive and life-altering mistake. It's a pill that must be taken as soon as possible after sex (up to 120 hours); the pill is a concentrated dose of birth control hormones which prevents pregnancy. It is a contraceptive; it does NOT cause abortions. EC is available over-the-counter (FDA approved) at a pharmacy as long as you are at least 18 years old. Kroger stores have pledged to make EC available at all their stores on demand. www.plannedparenthood.com has more information on EC.

5) And, most importantly... Do what you are comfortable with. Some students will choose to stay abstinent through college and have sex only when they are engaged or married, some will choose to have sex only in serious relationships, and others will have several hookups. Sex is a personal decision – don't pressure yourself (or let other people pressure you) into doing something you aren't comfortable with. If you're ready to start using some handcuffs or finding a vibrator – well, college is all about exploring your dreams!

Editor's Note: Though The Conglomerate has a strict policy against printing anonymous articles, we have chosen to guard the identity of the author of this column. We feel that doing so will not only improve the content of the column, but will allow those with questions and comments to write to the columnist without the risk of embarrassment. The anonymity in this case provides the best grounds for honesty.

Please join us for a Lifeshare Blood Drive

On Tuesday September 11, 2007 in the Student Union Building from 11:00-4:00 PM

Donors will be asked to show ID at registration

Pizza, snacks, and drinks provided

Annual Book Bazaar to be held this weekend at the Gold Dome

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

The Book Bazaar is back. Last year The Centenary Muses raised a record amount of $47,500 to fund Centenary student organizations and projects. This year, it is expected to bring in just as much, if not more. The 21st annual Centenary Book Bazaar is scheduled for the evening of Friday, September 7, from 4:30 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, September 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Centenary Book Bazaar sells tons of books, records, CDs, DVDs, and videos, all at really great prices. The books range from children's to romance to rare. The music fraternity on campus, Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI), will be selling records and other music paraphernalia as well. Remember, all proceeds go to fund Centenary College's student projects and organizations for the year.

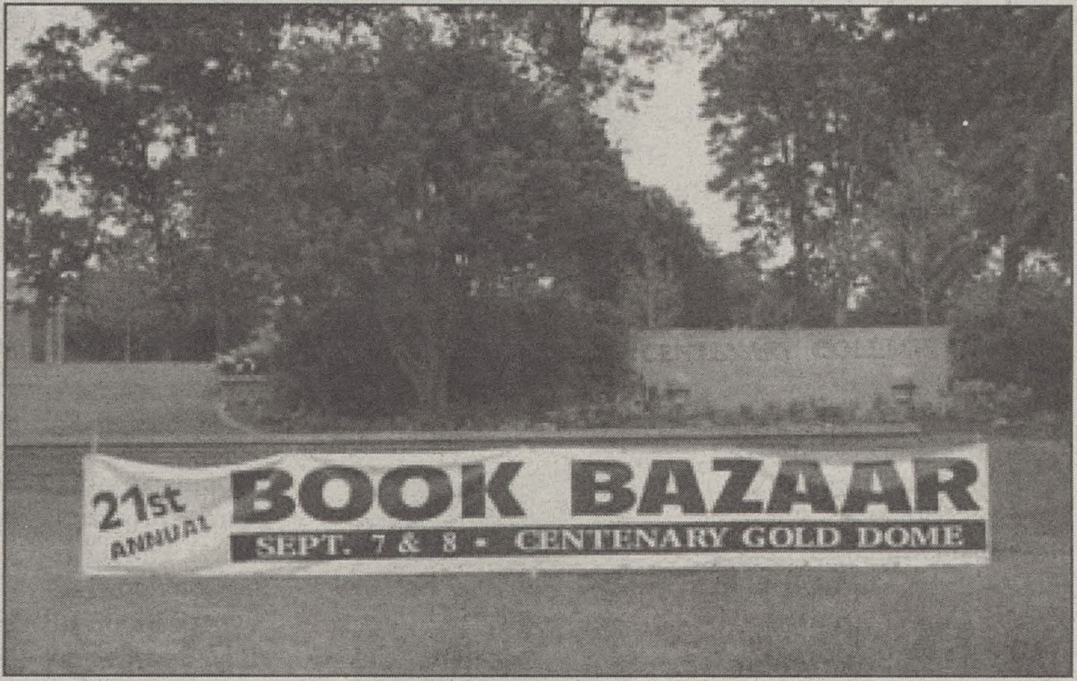

photo by Mindy McKoin, staff photographer

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New Resident Assistants: Meet the valiant

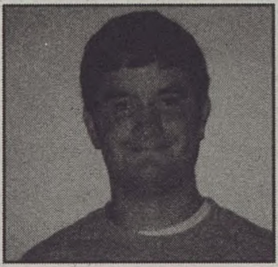
Compiled by Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

Name: Todd Johnson
Hometown: Pleasant Hill, LA
Location: Cline, 1st Floor
Other Clubs: The Conglomerate, OTM bid-writing team, Rotaract
Favorite Bit of Advice: Always be true to yourself and your principles.
Personal Quote: "Personality can open doors, but character can keep them open." -Elmer Letterman

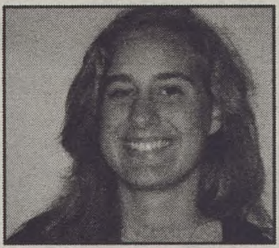
Name: Molly Broderick
Hometown: Bossier City, LA
Location: Cline, 2nd Floor
Other Clubs: Outreach, Cross Country, Ultimate Frisbee
Favorite Bit of Advice: "Don't forget your keys!"
Personal Quote: "When your dreams turn to dust, vacuum."

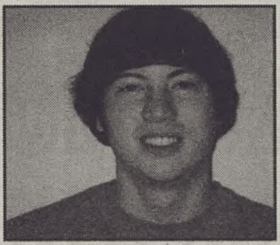
Name: Kathryn-Alizabeth Baker
Hometown: Lexington, North Carolina
Location: James
Other Clubs: CAB, College Republicans, a sorority
Favorite Bit of Advice: After a storm comes a calm.
Personal Quote: "Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm." -Sir Winston Churchill

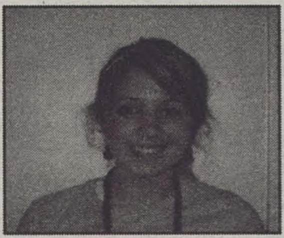
Name: Jason Kay
Hometown: Baton Rouge, LA
Location: James Annex, 1st Floor
Other Clubs: N/A
Favorite Bit of Advice: Go with what life throws at you; don't fight it unless you have to.
Personal Quote: "Be yourself, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."
– Dr. Seuss


Todd Johnson

Molly Broderick


Kathryn-Alizabeth Baker


Jason Kay

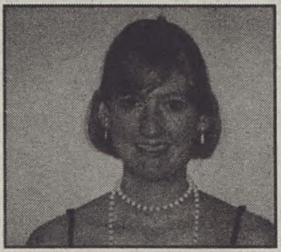

Mindy McKoin

Name: Mindy Tessa McKoin
Hometown: Bastrop, LA
Location: Sexton, 2nd Floor
Other Clubs: Centenary College Head Ambassador, Stepping Stones Leadership Team, Christian Leadership Center, Photographer for the Conglomerate
Favorite Bit of Advice: Happiness keeps you sweet, trials keep you strong, sorrows keep you human, failures keep you humble, success keeps you glowing, but only faith keeps you going!
Personal Quote: "The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will." -Coach Vince Lombardi

Name: Gabe Silvas
Hometown: Euless, TX
Location: Rotary Suites
Other Clubs: Men's Soccer, NRHH
Favorite Bit of Advice: Balance is key to everything.
Personal Quote: "Fail to prepare, prepare to fail."

Name: Ashley Sholar
Hometown: Shreveport, LA
Location: Hardin, 1st Floor
Other Clubs: Maroon Jacket VP, AED, Order of Omega, a sorority
Favorite Bit of Advice: Take a deep breath.
Personal Quote: "That's just how I roll!"

Gabe Silvas


Ashley Sholar

Brandi Andrews

Jessica Cosenza

Lauren-Christine Broussard

Suneera Kompelli

Name: Brandi Andrews
Hometown: Shreveport
Location: James Proper
Favorite Bit of Advice: Set goals you can achieve and do not be afraid of change.
Personal Quote: "Life is too short, so live!"

Name: Jessica Cosenza
Hometown: Pineville, LA
Location: James Proper, 2nd Floor
Other Clubs: AED, Rituals Chair of a sorority
Favorite Bit of Advice: Live each day as if it were your last.
Personal Quote: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."

Name: Lauren-Christine Broussard
Hometown: Kaplan
Location: Cline 3rd Floor
Other Clubs: Centenary Environmental Club, Wilderness Club, Peer Study Abroad Adviser for the Intercultural Office
Favorite Bit of Advice: Don't waste time being unhappy. Breathe. Start walking forward.
Personal Quote: "Whoever invented boredom must've been mad at life for being so amazing!" - Sinfest

Name: Suneera Kompelli
Hometown: Shreveport
Location: James Annex 2nd Floor
Other Clubs: SGA, Centenary in Shreveport, Mascot Committee
Favorite Bit of Advice: Get involved, make a difference.
Personal Quote: "Life is like a box of chocolates...so eat them and be happy!"

all photos by Mindy McKoin

guardians of your domestic well-being

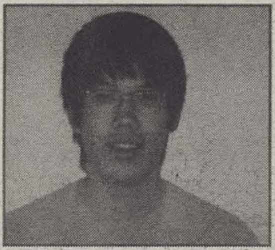
Compiled by Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Stacey Stokes

Name: Stacey Stokes
Hometown: Burleson, TX
Location: James Apartment
Other Clubs: ZTA, SWACURH, NRHH, Math and Computer Science Club
Favorite Bit of Advice: Make wise decisions!
Personal Quote: "I have a simple philosophy: Fill what's empty. Empty what's full. Scratch where it itches." -Alice Roosevelt Longworth

LITTLE MISS
Marissa Teauseau

Name: Marissa Teauseau
Hometown: Bossier City, LA
Location: Hardin, 2nd Floor
Other Clubs: Chi Omega, Christian Leadership Center, Stepping Stones Leadership, Up 'Til Dawn
Favorite Bit of Advice: Always wash your hands after you use a public bathroom.
Personal Quote: "I'm not gonna lie..."


Amos Sit

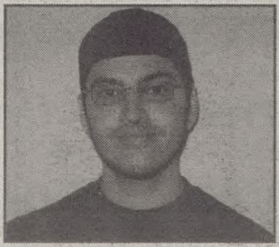
Name: Amos Sit
Hometown: Monroe, LA
Location: James Proper 204R
Other Clubs: NRHH, AED, SGA.
Favorite Bit of Advice: Don't be stupid.
Personal Quote: "Life is like a game of Monopoly. Well, I just got my get out of jail free card, so I'm staring at a new board of possibilities."

Nicole Turner

Name: Nicole Turner
Hometown: Rockwall, TX
Location: James Annex, 2nd Floor
Other Clubs: Swim Team
Favorite Bit of Advice: Don't sweat the small stuff.
Personal Quote: "You are always capable of doing so much more than you ever thought possible."

Alysha Wallace

Name: Alysha Wallace
Hometown: Garland, TX
Location: Hardin Hall Director
Other Clubs: Hall Director for Hardin, works in the Gold Dome, baby-sits for four different families, runs Cross Country (Go Ladies!), Teachers Education Association, co-chair member of SWACURH.
Favorite Bit of Advice: Always stay positive!
Personal Quote: "If everything were easy, there would be nothing to make you proud of yourself!!!"


Kyle McGimsey

Name: Kyle McGimsey
Hometown: Baton Rouge, LA
Location: Cline
Other Clubs: Juggling Club, Senior Classical League
Favorite Bit of Advice: Take a Latin class while you're at school.
Personal Quote: "Well, I can't eat muffins in an agitated manner. The butter would probably get on my cuffs. One should always eat muffins quite calmly. It is the only way to eat them." -Oscar Wilde

Cara Miccoli

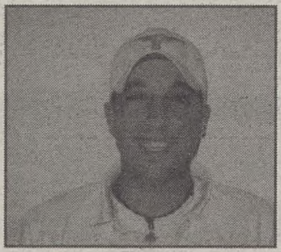
Name: Cara Miccoli
Hometown: Anacoco, LA
Location: Cline Hall, First Floor
Other Clubs: NRHH, RHA, Chemistry Club, and Cross Country
Favorite Bit of Advice: Make the most of everyday!
Personal Quote: "To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift." - Steve Prefontaine

Roland Womach

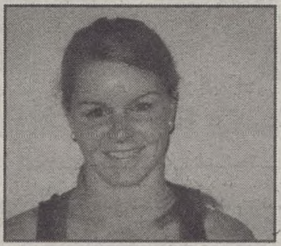
Name: Kenneth Roland Womack II
Hometown: Bossier City, LA
Location: Cline 354
Other Clubs: Physics Club
Favorite Bit of Advice: Don't sweat the small stuff.
Personal Quote: "When you have eliminated all which is impossible, then whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." - Sherlock Holmes

Ashley Johnston

Name: Ashley Johnston
Hometown: Bossier City, LA
Location: Rotary, 1st and 2nd floor
Other Clubs: ZTA, Ambassadors, Escaped Images Dance Company, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Teachers Education Association.
Favorite Bit of Advice: Always be the example that you want to see in others.
Personal Quote: "Let go and Let God."


Josh Coco

Name: Josh Coco
Hometown: San Antonio, New Orleans area
Location: Rotary 100
Other Clubs: NRHH, RHA, SWACURH Regional Associate Director, Chemistry Club, Math Computer Science Club, Intramurals
Favorite Bit of Advice: Don't eat anything the color of navy blue.
Personal Quote: "Impossible is Nothing."


Jennifer Martin

Name: Jennifer Martin
Hometown: Fort Worth, Texas
Location: Sexton 154R
Other Clubs: Honor Court, SAAC, Sigma Beta Delta, Alpha Chi, Omicron
Delta Kappa, Omicron Delta Epsilon, Accounting Intern
Bit of Advice: Work hard at everything that you do. Always do what makes you happy. Surround yourself with positive, encouraging people. Don't ever be afraid to laugh (at yourself).
Quote: "I am the type of person who likes to think that life is like a mirror, always reflecting what you do. If your face is smiling, it smiles back at you."

Allison Cormier

Name: Allison Cormier
Hometown: New Iberia, LA
Location: Sexton Hall Director
Other Clubs: NRHH, AED, SWARCH Committee
Bit of Advice: Don't rub your eyes with your hands.
Quote: "If I can't dance, I don't want to be part of your revolution." - Emma Goldman

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Movie review: "Stardust" is a criminally underseen gem of the fantasy genre

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Every once in a while, you'll find a movie that doesn't find the audience that it deserves. Last year, this movie was "Children of Men" (if you haven't seen that movie yet, then check it out). This year, it was a charming little fantasy movie called "Stardust".

The movie is simple enough. A young man named Tristan Thorn (Charlie Cox) is in love with a village beauty (Sienna Miller). When he and the girl spot a star falling from the sky, he stupidly promises that he would bring the star back for the girl if she would promise to marry him.

Unbeknownst to Tristan, the star has been knocked out of the sky by a king (Peter O'Toole) and his four sons, who all have a bad habit of killing each other so they can become the king. The condition is that whoever finds the necklace the star carries will be king. The star is also spotted by three witches, with one (Michelle Pfieffer) vowing to find the star so they can be eternally beautiful.

Adding to the craziness, Tristan finds the star and discovers that it is a beautiful girl with an attitude (Claire Danes). So Tristan is forced to protect the star.

Along the way, they meet a gay sky pirate who happens to look a lot like Robert De Niro (it actually is).

This movie is pure fun from start to finish. There is not a single dull moment anywhere and the pace never lags at any moment.

It also has something for everyone, literally. There is action with swordfights, chases, and a few spells thrown in for good measure. There is a very romantic plot with people falling in and out of love and sweet tender moments abound. This movie also has some of the funniest moments I have seen in any movie in a long time. Robert De Niro as a gay pirate is not something that you will soon forget, nor will you want to. Ricky Gervais also makes a funny cameo as a crooked salesman. There are also the ghosts of the dead princes in some of the funniest moments of the movie.

The performances are all really good. Pfieffer goes completely over the top as the head witch. Charlie Cox, an unknown, makes a great impression as the everyman Tristan and Claire Danes provides the perfect amount of sass and sweetness for the character of Yvaine the star.

Everything about this movie is an absolute wonder. The story, the special effects, the music, the editing, the design, and the sense of wonder throughout the story all come together to make an engaging and supremely entertaining movie.

My recommendation is to make this a date movie. The girl will love the romantic plot. The guy will love the action and suspense. Everybody will love the comedy. The only terrible thing about this movie is that not enough people have seen it yet. Trust me when I say that you must see this movie, just so it will promise that we can get more like it. Otherwise we will be stuck with more drivel like Saw 50 and whatever crappy romantic comedy is playing.

Movie review: "Superbad" is vulgar and hilarious, for crude comedy fans

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

I love a good comedy every now and then. One of those movies where you can sit back, relax, and just have a good time and many good laughs.

The sad thing is that nowadays, there are few really good comedies. We are constantly bombarded by lame spoofs, formulaic romantic comedies, and just plain terrible movies.

Luckily, over the past few years, Judd Apatow, the guy behind *The 40 Year Old Virgin* and *Knocked Up*, has been on a comedic warpath. With movies that focus on hilarious dialogue and good-natured and likeable characters, his comedies have been a breath of fresh air.

Now we can add *Superbad* to the list. While Apatow is only a producer on this movie, his influence is everywhere and the movie is the better for it.

Superbad is about two best friends, Evan and Seth (Michael Cera and Jonah Hill, respectively), who somehow manage to get invited to a graduation party. They promise to bring alcohol using their friend Fogel's (Christopher Mintz-Plasse) fake i.d. All this is done in the hopes of having sex with two beautiful girls.

However, the fake i.d. carries the name McLovin and Fogel (henceforth named McLovin) is busted by two very inept cops (Seth Rogen and Bill Hader).

From there on out, the movie is one long misadventure. Evan and Seth struggle to find alcohol for the party and McLovin has his adventures with the cops, which are the highlights of the movie by far.

This movie is slow at the start with few laughs, but gets rolling quickly with some very funny dialogue exchanges, mainly two where a teacher is insulted and where a problem that 8% of boys suffer is explained.

The performances are very good and the writing is whip-smart. The situations are outrageous, but not over-the-top, except for one scene at a party involving some blood. Most of the movie is pure comedic gold.

However, the movie is also very foul-mouthed and vulgar, which I personally like but I know is not everybody's cup of tea. There are some very crude moments, but these are counterbalanced by the inherent sweetness of the main characters and the good-natured fun that the movie offers.

This is a movie that is not afraid to test boundaries and will have you rooting for the main characters in the hopes that they succeed, though things do not turn out the way you would expect. The movie is hilarious and recommended viewing for anyone who can stomach horribly crude language and even cruder situations. If you were a fan of *Knocked Up* or *The 40 Year Old Virgin*, then *Superbad* is the movie for you.

Come participate in the SGA Elections!

SGA Senator Elections begin next week!

Positions open include; 5 freshmen, 1 sophomore, and 1 junior

Petitions for candidacy are available now at the
Student Info desk in the SUB
Petitions are due back no later than
Wednesday, September 12, at 8 PM.

There will be a candidate question and answer
session in the SUB lobby
Wednesday, September 12, at 8 PM

This is mandatory for all candidates!
Campaigns and elections will start the next day.

Come see how your classmates will represent YOU!

A real look behind the scenes of "Major Movie Star": bringing down your IQ one Jessica Simpson comment at a time

Editor's note: Due to confidentiality contracts, the unnamed extra must remain so, but the following stories are all true.

Caroline Cottingham
Staff Writer

TV networks and national newspapers are calling Shreveport the new "Hollywood of the South." All this talk has gotten me a little excited;

I'm already planning my accidental rendezvous with Christopher Walken, Maggie Gyllenhall, Meryl Streep, or Morgan Freeman. I'm also patiently awaiting the new Walk of Stars 2 (the remix or the sequel - you decide) and the Sunset Bayou Boulevard (or we could re-name the Boardwalk…).

For my first foray into the world of investigative journalism, I've tracked down an extra from the latest movie in production in Shreveport, "Major Movie Star". She's promised to give me the inside dirt on how incredible Jessica Simpson is, after I pay her a large sum of money and take her to a really posh restaurant (also known as Randle's).

Super Investigative Journalist: So what's "Major Movie Star" about? I mean, I'm SO excited about it, even though it doesn't come out for another six months!

Unenthusiastic Extra: It's about a dumb bit…, uh, I mean, blonde who was a movie star. But when she finds out her boyfriend isn't as in love with her DD cups as her father is and her manager (another incestuous family member?) is stealing her money, she decides to join the Marines. But apparently she fails at that, too.

SIJ: Wow, that sounds amazing! I wonder if she called Goldie Hawn from "Private Benjamin" [Author's note: same movie, better actress] for notes? Well, who cares! So, Jessica's mom told Vanity Fair back in July 2004 that Jessica's IQ is in the 160s. That would make her the smartest Marine ever, right?

UE: …I doubt it. Might put her a couple points above President Bush though? I mean, Jessica told the U.S. Secretary of the Interior that she "did a great job decorating the White House." Who does that? On set Jessica had to have the cue cards held three feet from her face just to make it through the fiftieth take. If she is just "acting dumb," then she sure can't act anything else…

SIJ: Oh. [Slightly awkward silence.] Well… I've also heard she's a really sweet, outgoing person. She told E! that she eats lunch with the extras on set every day, and she's made so many best friends! She must be so down to earth.

UE: What? Jessica sits in her trailer and eats every day. She doesn't even speak to us. What the hell are you talking about? Her assistants won't even let us walk by her trailer – as if we don't see her all day. She even tried to make the Boardwalk management clear the whole shopping center just so she could go in a few stores. I wouldn't say "friendly" was her best trait…

SIJ: Oh. [Much more awkward silence.] But I heard she does her own stunts! She must be brave?

UE: Not sure where you heard that. Her stunt double, Christie, does them. Jessica wouldn't even climb a tower.

SIJ: So do you have anything good to say about Jessica?

UE: She raised my paycheck for the movie because we did so many takes that they had to keep us on set an extra couple days. That was pretty sweet.

SIJ: …I guess I'm back to waiting for some real movies to get the scoop on. Have you heard of anything good coming to town? Do you think they'll hold the next Academy Awards here? That would totally be the highlight of my life!

UE: Here? I'm going out to Hollywood for my next film. Screw this "Hollywood of the South" thing. Next thing you know, they'll be shooting "Rocky XVI" here – or another Mary Kate and Ashley movie.

6 Purposes of Chi Omega:

Friendship
High Standards of Personnel
Scholarship
Campus Activities
Community Service
Career Developement

CHI-O

Satire: Roommate unWanted - the top 10 most annoying roommate types and how to deal with them

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

Almost everyone who's lived on campus in some part of their lifetime has had a roommate that they just didn't click with. It's not your fault, usually. Most of the time it's the other person who has the problem. If you've never had a bad roommate, chances are, you are that annoying roommate. Here are the Top 10 Most Annoying Roommate Types and how to deal with them:

1.All-Up-In-Your-Spacer

These roommates not only want to know everything about your personal life, they also like to take up your side of the room. They fill your cabinets with their junk. They cover your walls with their posters and then they want to know every minute detail of your life. Some people just don't want to tell their life story to a (somewhat) complete stranger. Tips to deal with them: The old tape line trick. Put up a line of tape across the halfway mark between your sides of the room. Tell them if they cross the line, a baby dies. If they don't believe you, next time they do it, have a friend of yours call and say their niece/nephew/child/whatever just died and also have them ask if your roommate crossed the line.

2.Clinger/Pleaser

These people will not only ask you every second what you are doing, where you are going, and if you want to go to the Caf or Randle's with them, they also will clean your side of the room to make you happy. This person is a pushover and just wants your attention. Tips to deal with them: If they want to clean your side of the room, let them. But if they cling too much tell them you have herpes and you're in the middle of a serious outbreak. That might make them back off a little.

3.Talker

This is the most common roommate type. Most people are talkative, especially right before bed. My roommate and I will talk for hours on end before bed just because we have nothing better to do. However, roommates that want to talk to you all the time when you are not a big talker are problems Tips on how to deal with them: The cold shoulder always works the best. Just turn your back to them and ignore them. If that doesn't work, duct tape is the next solution. It solves all problems, even talkative roommates.

4.Passive-Aggressive

There are two types of angry people: Those who yell at the cashier for counting change wrong and those like the cashier who bottle it up and, one day, explode and shoot up the whole store. These people are like the cashier. You must always worry about their quiet, angry demeanor and whether they will blow up at you at any time. Tips on how to deal with them: They are ticking time bombs. Don't make any sudden moves and you should be okay.

5.Vain

These people have about a dozen mirrors and tons of pictures of themselves all over their room. Guys and girls alike, these people are conceited and into themselves more than anything else. Tips on how to deal with them: Put them in their place. Tell them every day that something else is wrong with them. "Your hair isn't cut right." "Your butt's too big." "You don't have the right facial structure for that hat." If they don't change their ways, they'll just get plastic surgery to fix every problem you mention.

6.Wants Your Main Squeeze

For girls, this one is the slutty roommate. For guys, this one is the womanizer. Each one will flirt with your main squeeze no matter how long you have been dating. They want something they can't have - but don't we all. Tips on how to deal with them: Take it as a compliment. If someone else wants your main squeeze, it must mean that they are pretty damn special and you should hold on to them. If they really take your main squeeze, however, kick them both in the face and run away.

7.Stinker

These are the roommates with poor hygiene. They smell no matter how much Febreeze, perfume, or cologne you spray their way. They may or may not shower, but if they do, they probably use moldy cheese as soap. Tips on how to deal with them: Tranquilize them and put them in the shower. You may need several friends to help you do this. While they are out, wash every part of their body with the freshest and sweetest smelling soap or body wash you can find. When they wake up, they will feel refreshed. And once they find out how many more people talk to them, they may keep up the task.

8.Partier

These people go to every party at every frat house, sorority house, house house, and bar. They will come into your room drunk, clang around, turn on lights, and maybe even bring their posse with them. They are one of the loudest types of roommates. Tips on how to deal with them: Earplugs and lots of rocks. Here's what you do: Put in earplugs. Hold rocks in hands under pillow. As roommate enters with or without posse, throw rocks at them. This should at least get them to call you crazy and request another roommate. You're in the clear.

9.Snooper

These people are not only in your business, they also like to dig through your personal items. They will search through your hard drive on your computer to see what you do on there 10 hours a day, dig through your drawers to see if you are a boxer or brief guy (for guys), dig through your drawers to see if you are a boy short, brief, or thong girl (for girls), and also search through your homework. Tips on how to deal with them: Place random (fake) video cameras in your room and tell them that you suspect someone is coming in and digging through your stuff. Don't tell them you think it's them. They will only deny it. Then, if they feel they need to confess, let them. Act surprised but flustered. They may or may not do it again, but it gives you something to do with those fake video cameras you've had all summer!

continued on page 15 with the most annoying roommate type of all

Strange but true: Russian city outlaws negative phrases in the workplace

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

As if living in Siberia weren't complicated enough, the city hall employees in the Russian city of Megion now have to watch what they say.

The mayor of this western Siberian city, Aleksandr Kuzmin, has banned certain words and expressions from use in all administrative offices. Among the forbidden expressions are "that's impossible," "I'm on my lunch break" and "someone else has got the documents."

Why this drastic measure? According to www.onet.pl, it's because Mayor Kuzmin is sick and tired of people who are not putting 100% into their work and who find excuses not to be helpful. From now on, if anyone says that they "don't know" something or that their "workday is already over" in front of the Mayor, they will risk losing their job.

The Megion case might well scream "Big Brother" and "personalfreedominfringement," but to some extent we can all learn from Kuzmin's example. Even though Centenary has, in general, a very responsive and hard-working administration, there are definitely things that we could do without hearing when we deal with certain offices and services around campus.

Residence Life, for instance, could use a little less of "there's been a mistake," or "you've been moved to a different room." International students aren't that fond of hearing that they "can't stay in the dorm during the break," either. Another thing on the list could be "no, you can't participate in room lottery if your roommate is an exchange student because that student is not physically AT the lottery, even though they will be physically AT Centenary next semester."

A few other lines that we could really do without are "we're out of bottled water" at Randle's and "the scanners broke down again" at the Library. Residents of Cline would most likely forbid the words "hot water" and "shortage" to be ever used in the same sentence again, while pretty much any broke college student would agree that the textbook prices should be censored, if our mental wellbeing is of any importance.

GO GREEK!

Kappa Alpha • Kappa Sigma • Tau Kappa Epsilon • Theta Chi • Alpha Phi Alpha

DID YOU KNOW?

- Over the last four years at Centenary every SGA President has been a proud Greek member.
- All but two United States Presidents since 1825 are Greek.
- 85% of US Supreme Court Justices since 1880 are Greek.
- 71% of those in Who's Who in America are Greek.
- 76% of US Congress men are Greek.
- 85% of all Fortune 500 Executives are Greek.
- Greek students rate their college life happier than other collegians.
- Greeks are more involved in campus activities and groups after college.
- An US Government study shows that over 70% of Greeks graduate, while only 50% of all non-Greeks graduate

PILLARS OF GREEK LIFE:

LEADERSHIP
SCHOLARSHIP
SERVICE/ PHILANTHROPY
BROTHERHOOD/ SISTERHOOD

How is Greek Life different from other college organizations?

Adjusting to college can be a lot easier in Greek Life as life long friendships form and chapters become a home away from home. More than just friendship or one shared interest, each chapter is committed to scholarship, leadership, community service, and brother hood/sisterhood. Greek Life also promotes the improvement of each member overall, not just in a specific area.

How is Greek Life beneficial after college?

Greek Life does not end after graduation. The life-long friendships created form a social network across the country. There are more than 5 million Greek alumni world-wide. Career networking from Greek Life helps with internships, summer employment, & future career employment.

Will my academics be compromised if I join Greek Life?

At Centenary academics are the first priority and Greeks are required to have a specific GPA to participate in social functions. Each chapter has a network of members to tutor, encourage, and offer each field. There is always someone to study within each chapter!

How time consuming is joining a fraternity or sorority?

While Greek Life is a commitment, the time required varies from chapter to chapter. The first year of Greek Life usually requires the most attention from each new member to learn about the chapter and its education program. Education programs help new members to learn about leadership, time management skills, the history of the organization, as well as help connect students to Centenary. After the required period is over each member chooses the amount of time they want to put in to Greek Life and the activities Each chapter usually requires weekly chapter meeting, a monthly community service project, and potential other activities. Don't worry all events are planned well in advance and scheduled to not overwhelm members older members find out that you will only get out of Greek Life what you put into it!

HOROSCOPES

Aries (3/21-4/20) Listen to the Beatles more often - it will decrease your hostility.

Taurus (4/21-5/21) Do the Superman.

Gemini (5/22-6/21) Whatever it is, it's just your imagination.

Cancer (6/22-7/23) Sleep is your friend.

Leo (7/24-8/23) You will get a paper cut this week.

Virgo (8/24 –9/23) Spraying Febreeze on your dirty laundry does not make it clean.

Libra (9/24-10/22) The sprinklers are out to get you.

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) Tap into your creative side - sing a little louder in the shower.

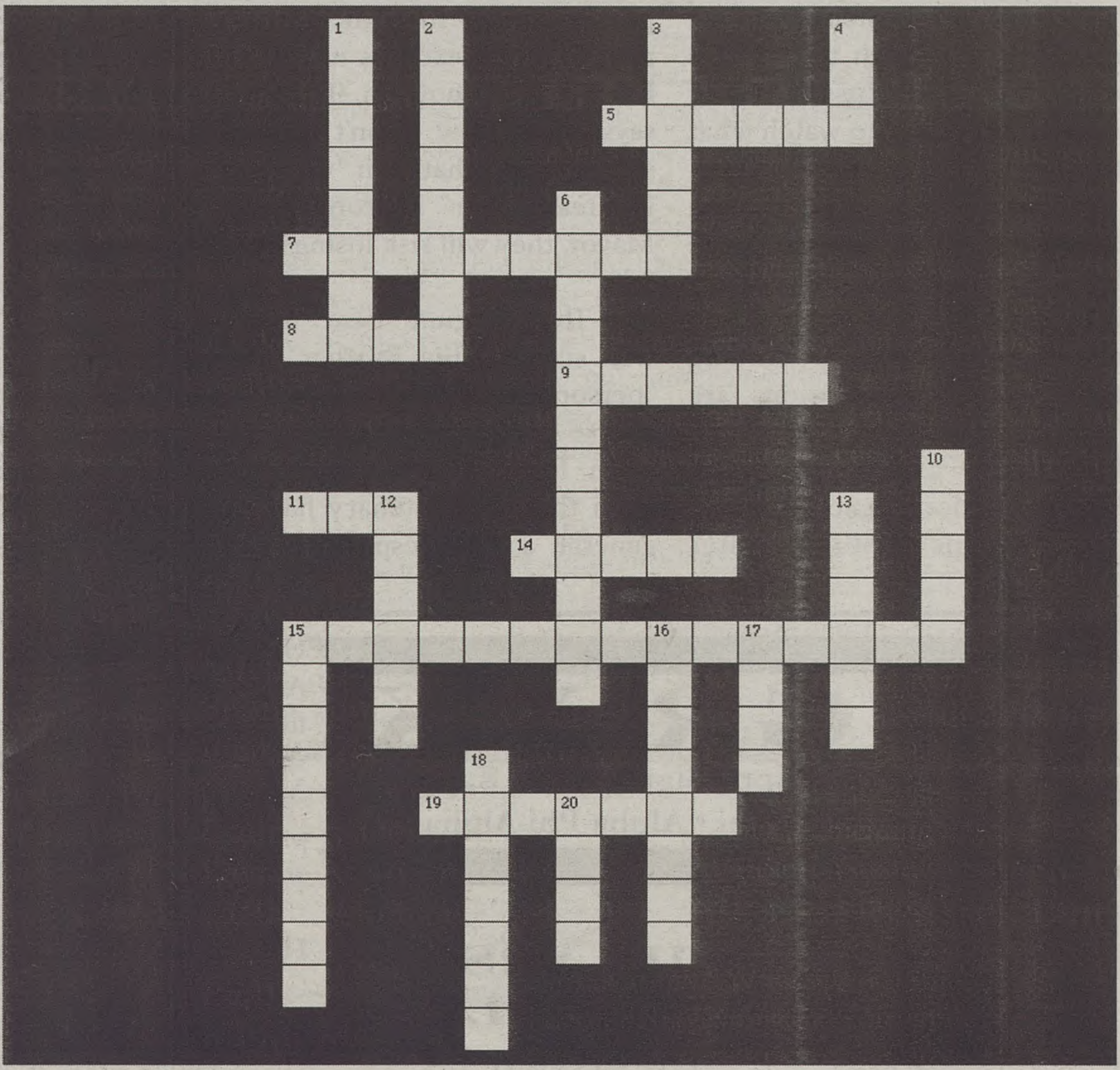
Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) It's business time.

Capricorn (12/22 –1/20) Find a theme song, and sing it while walking around campus.

Aquarius (1/21-2/19) It's time to go on a lion hunt.

Pisces (2/20-3/20) Beware of cyclists.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: CAMPUS PRIDE



ACROSS
5 President of the college
7 Field next to Hardin
8 Centenary mascot
9 Female dorm next to Bynum Commons
11 Gravel parking lot behind James
14 Amphitheater
15 Home to the Education, Sociology, and Psychology departments
19 Home to the English, Language, and Business departments

DOWN
1 Where all basketball games take place, as well as major events
2 Bottom floor of the library
3 Science building
4 Home to Randle's and the post office
6 Street next to campus
10 Co-ed dorm on the south side of campus
12 Art building
13 Official name of the library
15 Bynum Commons
16 Yearbook
17 Green rectangular space between Hamilton and the library
18 Literary and Arts magazine
20 Campus radio station

Roommate unWanted: 10 most annoying roommate types and how to deal, cont'd. from page 12

10.Mr. or Miss Popular

This is the most annoying roommate type. These people have more friends than you can count on all the hands in Europe. They know everyone. And not only that, these friends are always in your room. Whenever you come back to change, they're there. Whenever you want to shower, they're there. Whenever you want to make out with your main squeeze, they're there. They're always there! Tips on how to deal with them: Get a lot of acquaintances together and do the same thing. See if you can out-friend them. Hey, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

As a person who's new to residence life, I would like to thank my suitemates for giving me the rundown on their past roommates. But just remember, everyone: 1 in 3 people is like one of these things. Now, look to your right. Ok, look to your left. If neither of those people looks like any of the types listed, then you're it.

		2	1			7		
9	1		7					8
		7			4			9
2				7				
1	7	9				3	6	4
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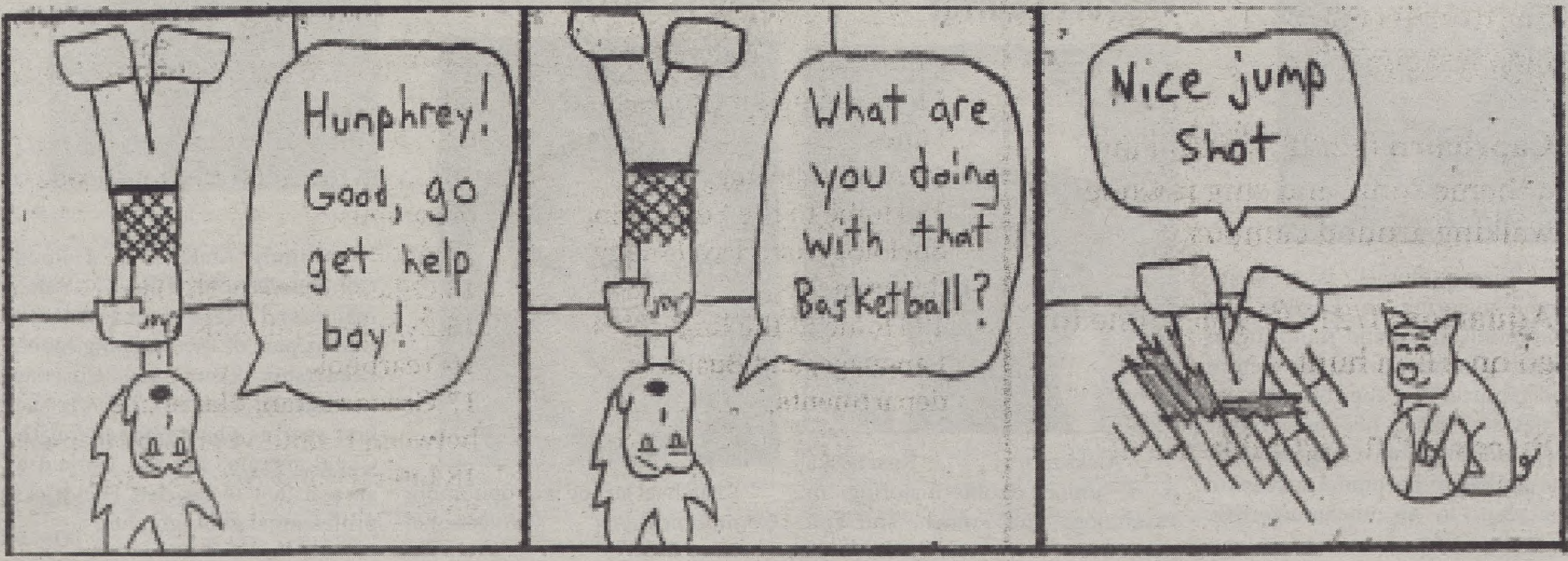
6			5			4		
7					2		3	6
		4			3	8		

Sudoku

A Day with Christ

By Chris Christ


Hunphrey! Good, go get help boy!
What are you doing with that Basketball?
Nice jump Shot

Meet the 2007-2008 Conglomerate editorial staff

Editor-in-Chief

Versha Sharma is a senior Political Science and History double-major and a Broadway musical freak. She's spent 7 out of the last 12 months studying and working in Rome, Italy, and if it weren't for the Conglomerate, she'd probably stay there. This is her fourth year on the paper, and when she's not distracted by the sound of '90s Britpop, she can be found listlessly looking for meaning in life now that the Harry Potter series is over. Versha plans to name her child Albus Severus.

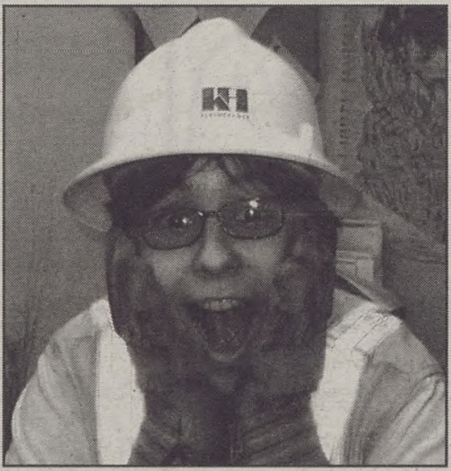
Copy Editor

Rhagen Russell is a senior double-majoring in English and Communications and minoring in French. She has worked as an intern and reporter for The (Shreveport) Times and this is her second year copy editing the Conglomerate. She aspires to become a successful poet but, in an uncharacteristic display of practicality, has decided to stick with journalism for a while so she can afford to eat. In her free time, Rhagen likes to read, collect records, astound you with a vast array of random but life-enriching information, and tell Courtney to go get her some chicken.

Layout Assistant

Courtney Delaney is a junior English major from New Orleans. Her family currently resides in Alexandria, including her two beloved dogs Tuck and Frankie. She enjoys reading, playing in the rain, watching movies, and listening to music. Her favorite bands include Led Zeppelin, Blind Melon, and Third Eye Blind. Courtney also has a bizarre fear of bicycles, possibly derived from her favorite comic book Calvin and Hobbes.

Features Editor



Aleksandra Kasztalska is a junior double-majoring in Psychology and French, and still unsure of what she will do after college. Besides the Conglomerate, she spreads her awesomeness at the Juggling Club and ISCA, as well as at the Intercultural Affairs Office. An amateur photographer, die-hard linguist and self-proclaimed badminton prodigy, Aleks likes getting things done and just might be a bit of a perfectionist. She also uses ketchup excessively and tends to make blenders explode.

A & E Editor

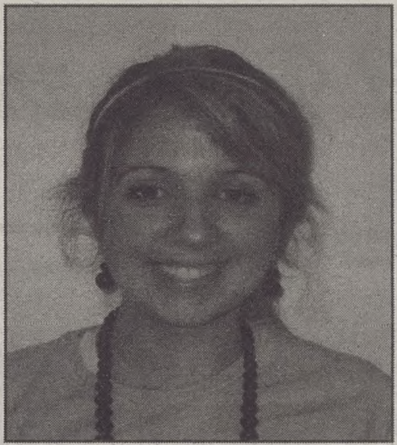
Todd Johnson is a sophomore Communication major and all-around awesome guy. He is from the thriving metropolis of Pleasant Hill, LA and is counting the days until he has to go back (and not in a good way). This is his second year with the paper and he has enjoyed every second of it. Todd is also a huge film buff and he is always willing to discuss movies with anyone at any time. And yes, he still sticks by the fact that "Epic Movie" is an underrated gem. It should be noted, however, that this last comment had tons of sarcasm in it.

Sports Editor

Michael Jarboe is a sophomore Communications (Professional Writing) major and is also involved with the United Methodist Student Movement and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He's very excited about his first year on the paper and plans to make this year's Sports section "out of this world."

Photographers

Emily DeLatin is a senior Elementary Education major. She plans to teach first or second grade when she graduates. She is currently contemplating moving to Austin, Texas but is concerned that the move will be stressful. Emily has two beautiful cats, Lucy and Amos. She loves to read, take pictures, and listen to Saves the Day.



Mindy McKoin is a junior Communications (Film/TV/Video) major and Head Ambassador as well as part of the Stepping Stones Leadership Team and Christian Leadership Center. This is her first year as photographer for The Conglomerate; she has worked as an assistant to Scarlett Hendricks, professional photographer.

The CONGLOMERATE

September 14, 2007 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 3

Opening Words

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."
– Edmund Burke

What's Happening

TV drama set in New Orleans to premiere on FOX Monday

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

"K-Ville," an abbreviation of Katrinaville, is a TV drama about life and police problems in post-hurricane New Orleans. Twentieth Century Fox granted an order for 13 episodes this May, and filming continues in the Crescent City.

The show is centered around two cops, Marlin Boulet (Anthony Anderson of "Hang Time" and "Transformers" fame) and Cole Hauser (Trevor Cobb, the other actor who was with Matthew McConaughey when he was arrested for playing the bongos naked). The cops have conflicting ideas on how to handle the violence and crime problems in the city of New Orleans in the chaotic aftermath of Katrina.

The pilot for the series will debut at 9/8 p.m. central on Fox on Monday, September 17th. Jonathan Lisco serves as the executive producer of the project.

Members of Centenary community rally to support the civil rights of the"Jena Six"

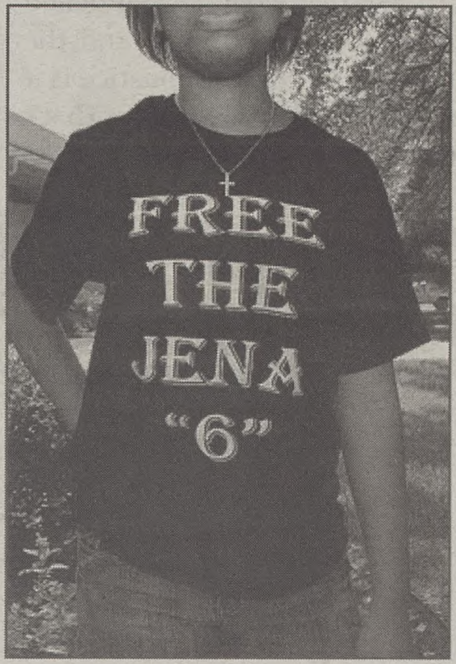
Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

As many as 40,000 protesters may descend upon the small town of Jena, Louisiana, on Thursday, September 20th, according to Jesse Jackson as quoted in the Louisiana Political News Service. Among those 40,000 will be numerous members of the Centenary College faculty, staff, and student body, all with the intent of ensuring six Jena High School students are treated fairly in the eyes of the law.

On August 31, 2006, a black student approached the principal of the high school to ask permission to sit under a tree on campus – a location usually solely occupied by white students. From accounts given by Attorney Donald Washington and to CNN and the BBC News, the principal replied that students could sit wherever they liked. The students did so, and came to school the next morning to find that three nooses had been hung from the tree.

While there was public outcry over the nooses, undoubtedly a symbol that the lynching days of the Old South weren't quite over, the three white students ultimately held responsible were punished with three days of in-school suspension. While the principal had recommended expulsion, the school superintendent was quoted in the Chicago Tribune as saying the nooses were simply a "prank."

A series of racially motivated altercations followed in the next few months in Jena, including fighting between black and white students at the high school and the torching of the main building of the school in November. An assembly to address the brawling had already been called in September, wherein District Attorney for LaSalle Parish Reed Walters allegedly told black students "I can end your lives with the stroke of a pen." Reports in the Associated Press have since confirmed that Walters did make such a statement but not directly to black students.

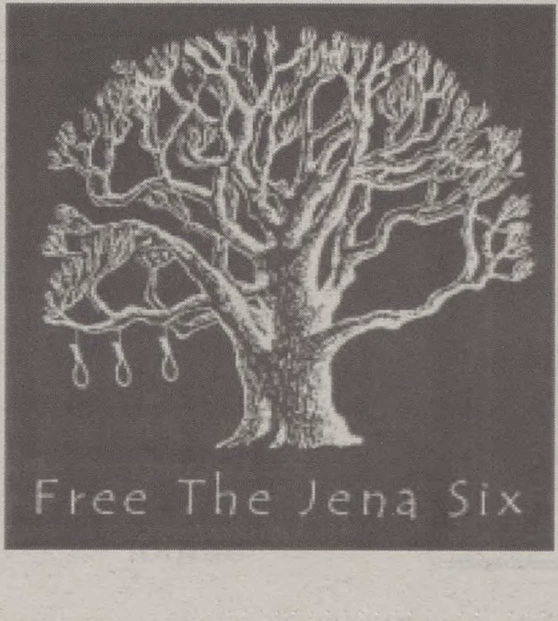


Pictured: LaTara Hart, cousin of two of the Jena Six. Photo courtesy of www.whileseated.org.

Regardless of the numerous rumors involving heresy and the Jena Six, the facts of the case are this: in December 2006, Robert Bailey Jr., Mychal Bell, Carwin Jones, Bryant Purvis, Theo Shaw, and an unidentified minor were arrested for assault on white student Justin Barker. (National Public Radio stated that Barker had been bragging about Bailey being beat up by a white man the previous weekend.)

Barker was treated by doctors for two hours for his injuries and discharged in time to attend the high school's ring ceremony that night, according to The Washington Post, and the Jena Six were arrested for attempted second-degree murder.

continued on page 2



Centenary community plans to support the Jena Six next week, continued from front page

Thanks to national protest and the advocacy of civil rights groups, some of the charges have been reduced. Approximately 260 groups have been formed on Facebook expressing outrage over what is seen as extremely severe punishment of the Jena Six; groups have anywhere from 4 (Canada) to 36,000+ members. An online petition, found at http://www.petitiononline.com/aZ51CqmR/petition.html, had over 240,000 signatures by press time.

On September 20th, however, Mychal Bell faces sentencing of up to 22 years for the December fight incident. Students, legal experts, and celebrities alike are flocking to Jena to protest the possibility that Bell and company may be imprisoned well into their 40s and 50s for assault. Centenary's Associate Professor of Sociology and Department Chair Dr. Loren Demerath is taking willing students from his Race & Ethnicity class to the rally.

Jennifer Bouso, one of Demerath's students, said, "I just feel that what has happened to these boys is unjust and the only way to correct injustice is if people stand up against it. That's what the rally is about."

Rapper Mos Def will show his support at the rally as well. In an open letter described by NME music magazine, Def has asked people of influence to join "the fight against racial inequality and show solidarity for these young people who are being treated very harshly by the law."

Bouso, a senior Religious Studies major, is also the leader of the volunteer organization Side-by-Side. The group is teaming up with Dr. Demerath's class and any other interested Centenary students to carpool to Jena on the 20th.

"Our group is about social activism and equal rights," Bouso said. "This is the perfect opportunity to get involved with something on a larger scale. This is a really important reminder that racism is still present and it's not something of the past. We talk about the Civil Rights movement as if it was 100 years ago, but it wasn't. I think we forget that – and we forget about the minority population that still suffers."

Those interested in joining the group traveling to Jena can contact Bouso (jbouso@centenary.edu) or Rachel Powell (rpowell@centenary.edu) at 337-580-4559.

Question of the Week

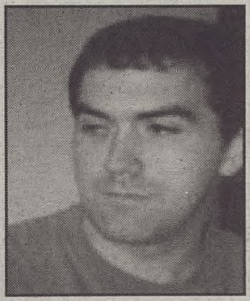
WHAT IS YOUR MOM'S NAME?

"Debbie." - Alysha Wallace, Junior

"Susan the hippie." - Maggie Mahoney, Senior

"Karen Ann; my aunt's names are Debbie Ann and Martha Ann." - Claire McDonnell, Senior

"Barbara, Grand Dutchess Under Ivan I." - John Cassaro, Senior



"Chun Yang." - Matthew Caleb Thomas, Senior

"Heidi 'Heidi, Heidi, Ho' Busefink." - Carrie Webber, Senior

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FEATURES

Centenary is constantly improving and emphasizing diversity, needs student and staff recommendations

Dr. Kelly Weeks
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What does it mean to value diversity? What would Centenary look like if we truly valued diverse cultures and celebrated our differences on a regular basis? How can we recruit and retain diverse students? Why don't we have much diversity in our faculty?

These are serious questions in need of serious answers. Last fall, Centenary invited Dr. Francie Kendall to conduct a series of focus groups designed to tap into our climate for diversity on campus. Focus groups consisting of students, faculty or staff were asked a series of questions, including, "What is currently in place to support reaching a goal of valuing diversity at Centenary?" and "What barriers exist that hinder reaching a diversity goal at Centenary?" The responses were very informative and have led to a list of recommendations as to how we can move forward.

I have recognized the need for more focus on diversity at Centenary for some time, and yet, I was still struck by the passion and conviction of some of the responses from the Centenary community. I was dismayed to see students of color say things like, "I've had to sacrifice a lot and endure a lot to get this good education" and "Black people here are mistreated, taken for granted, not seen or not present." I was saddened to see that someone said, "Centenary is 50 years behind the time and it likes that picture of itself." I was concerned to read that someone said, "The administrators are not committed to this at all...you can't really count on college support."

However, I was encouraged to see the response to such shocking and sad revelations about our community, our school, and our friends. I was encouraged to hear administrators struggling with how to really respond so that the community will know they are serious about addressing diversity issues on campus. I was encouraged by the response of faculty and staff who were ready to step forward and begin to make some changes. I was excited by the possibilities and ideas that students from all backgrounds had on how to begin to change our culture for the better.

Francie Kendall gave us some specific recommendations based on her assessment. Here are some of her suggestions:

- Develop a strategic plan for diversity and tie it to the business plan so that everyone sees it on a regular basis
- Get involved in the community surrounding Centenary more
- Participate in more diversity-related programming on campus
- Make our curriculum more diverse
- Administrators should take immediate and regular action
- Strengthen ties with historically black colleges, such as Dillard
- Design informal opportunities to discuss race—training, peer leaders, reading groups, regional events, etc.
- Develop a multicultural resource center and hire a director

Almost immediately, people on campus took action. There are groups of faculty, students, and staff on campus who have been interested in diversity issues for some time. Now we are trying to join efforts and support each other as we move forward. Some of the things going on related to diversity include:

- An informal Diversity Advocates committee has been formed consisting of students, faculty and staff who are charged with discussing and implementing diversity initiatives on campus, including beginning a specific diversity strategic plan.
- Centenary's new strategic plan was completed last spring and it includes a significant section on diversity-related initiatives, including diversity programming and recruiting and retaining diverse students and faculty.

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Summer campus changes include new furniture, flat screen TVs, and artwork

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

This year's returning students might have been surprised to find what looked like a random new statue next to the Gazebo, or the unexpected flat screen TV in the Cline lobby. Those who are a little more observant would also point out the big black tables in front of the SUB or the new door in James Hall, but would likely conclude that it was pretty much all that had changed over the summer.

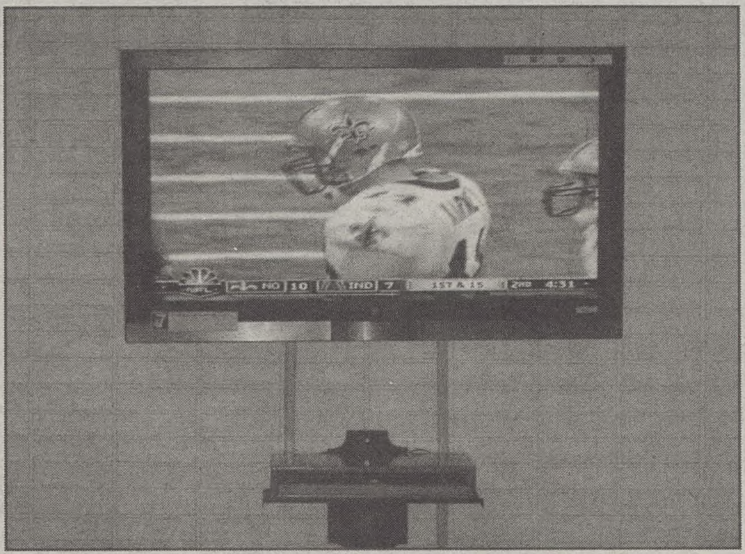
Yet these are just a few of the many projects that Residence Life and Facilities have been working on since the end of last semester.

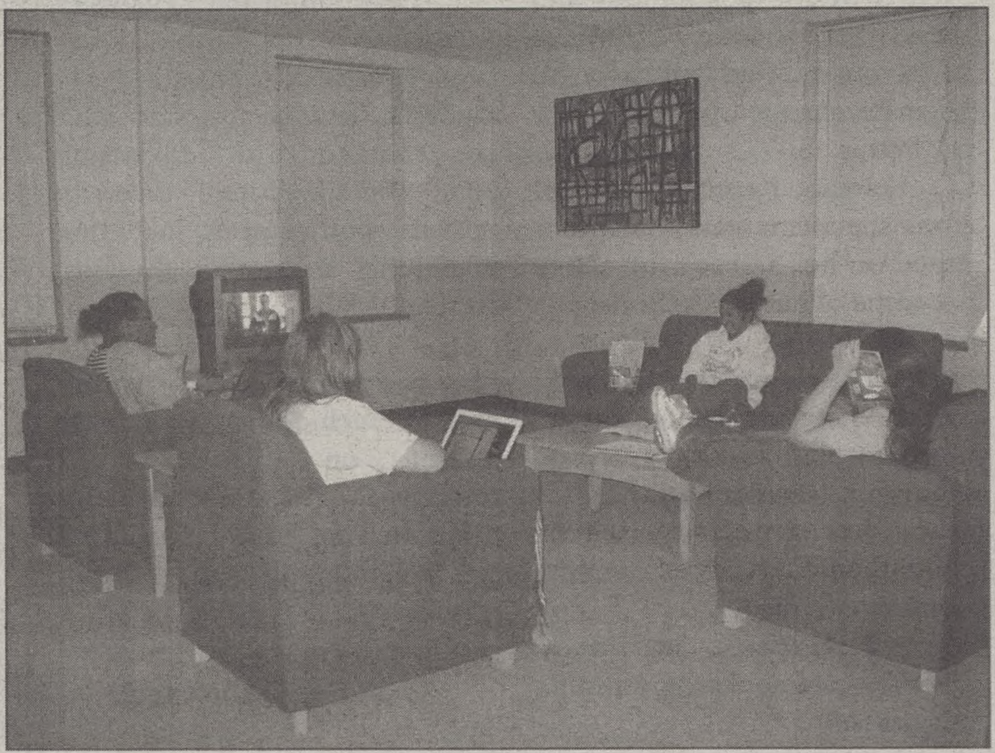
"Last year, I put together a whole renovation plan," said Assistant Dean of Students Kevin Wagner. "My feeling is that we need to improve our product - that is, our halls. We need to keep changing; we need to keep improving things."

Part of this plan was to purchase 200 new mattresses, in addition to the 200 bought last year – and the 200 to come next year. The goal is to have all the 600 or so beds on campus equipped with new mattresses every few years.

The residence halls are also gradually getting recarpeted. The whole of James Proper should be finished over Thanksgiving break and, according to Brian Baker, Grounds Supervisor, the Annex should be done this year, too. The Religious Life Center got recarpeted and repainted as well.

A big reason behind recarpeting is to make a switch from regular carpets to carpet tiles, which are a lot easier to maintain.





Mr. Wagner believes that "every couple of years, we should be doing this." Next spring, he wants to paint the hallways in James and leave the rooms for the summer, so that the whole of James gets a new look by Fall 2008.

Another ongoing project is having one residence hall painted every year. This year it was Rotary's turn to get a complete makeover, though the Cline Fishbowl did get painted too.

Moreimportantly,thesmoke detector update in Rotary was finally finished. Although the Rotary hallways had already had detectors installed in them, it was only this summer that the bedrooms themselves got equipped.

A different safety concern was the big gravel pit behind James Hall. Over the summer, DPS placed a new callbox there.

To name a few other summer improvements, the new front door in James finally replaced the infamous old one, energy efficient lighting was installed in the Sexton hallway, and the volleyball court next to Hardin was remodeled.

In addition, if one never goes to the 2910 Building, one would probably never know that Alumni Relations was moved there over the summer. It's much easier to notice the nice grassy area with a white bench that now stands in the big circle next to the Fitness Center and Smith.

Sheila Wiggins, the Grounds Supervisor, also points out the new flowerbeds and rocks near the Caf deck, as well as the landscaping job around the Wright building.

Perhaps the best news is that the leaking roof in the SUB was finally taken care of. Moreover, Mr. Baker explains that "this summer, believe it or not," Centenary finally made some progress on the "insurance claims from the storm two years ago." Thus, the Library and the Gold Dome roofs got fixed and updated.

The ground area leading up to the Caf also got resurfaced, as "between the candy wrappers and people throwing cookies and ice cream," it was a pain to keep clean.

Speaking of the Caf, the plans to have the area between it and Sexton used as an outdoor dining place have not been abandoned. The place will most likely be a natural landscape area with mulch and small, low maintenance flowerbeds, and maybe a dry stream or an actual waterfall, with a few tables like the ones outside of the SUB. However, it might take a while before this project is complete.

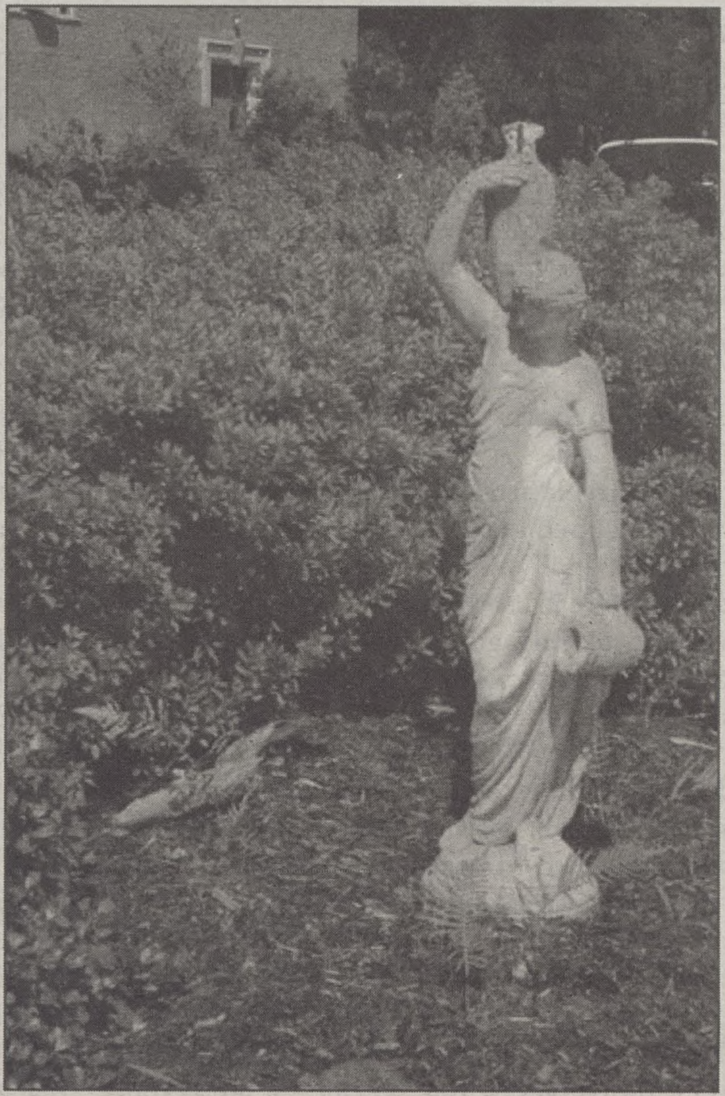
continued on page 5

Centenary making progress toward diversity, needs recommendations, continued from page 3

- There is a new class on campus this semester taught by Leia Lewis entitled "Introduction to Community-Based Arts," which is focused on reaching out to the Highland area with arts geared towards valuing diversity.
- Dr. Loren Demerath had a meeting of concerned faculty and community members who are interested in race relations in our community.
- Faculty members attended an ACS seminar on recruiting and retaining diverse faculty, and a new recruitment statement was developed to include in all job ads which refers to the importance of diversity on our campus.
- We have Diversity Week on campus and we have discussed sending student leaders to race-related training.
- Students got a grant to begin the SAFE ZONE training for faculty and staff on campus.
- The Minority Student Association is active on campus and planning some great campus-wide events for this fall
- We have some courses related to race and diversity, but we could use more.
- The President wrote an article for the Conglomerate about his commitment to diversity on campus.
- The Provost has initiated meetings with a variety of students, staff, and faculty on campus to determine how we can begin to move forward.
- A student-led committee has formed to discuss how and why we might consider changing our school mascot.

This is just the beginning. I'm sure there are many other things going on campus as well. I hope that the conversation about diversity will continue and invade our culture so that we cannot avoid it. I hope that we can all become involved in the initiatives in one way or another. I hope we can begin to have student, faculty, and staff reading groups to read relevant books, discuss our own race, and discuss our relationships with others. I hope we can make our curriculum more diverse and more attractive to diverse students. I hope we can move forward with a long-term plan that encourages valuing diversity at all levels of the college. I hope students will step up and plan even more diversity-related student life events. I hope that we will be intentional about recruiting and retaining diverse students and faculty.

What are the next steps? What do we want to be? Do we see ourselves as a diverse community? Would we like to? Where can we go from here? How can we keep this from being just "lip service"? How can YOU help? Get on board!! We have got to start somewhere and you may have the ideas that we need. If you are interested in being involved in diversity initiatives on campus, please contact me—even if you don't know how you can be involved! We need everyone to work together to make Centenary an even better school than it already is!



page 5, top: flat-screen TV in the Cline fishbowl. page 5, bottom: Students enjoy the new furniture in Hardin Residence Hall. above: new statue next to the gazebo. All photos by Mindy McKoin.

Summer campus changes, more to follow, continued from page 4

Finally, the mystery of the statue next to the Gazebo is revealed! It is, in fact, an old fountain from the Marjorie Lyons Playhouse courtyard. When it stopped working, Mrs. Wiggins decided to move it somewhere where it could serve as an ornament, and thus it ended up next to the Gazebo.

There is still a lot to be done on our campus, but it will take some time. "We're doing about 15 years of deferred maintenance," says Mr. Wagner, "meaning that there was nobody really thinking about these things before I got here."

Looks like it will be another busy year for Residence Life and Facilities.

Senator Larry Craig faces backlash, may not resign pending reversal of his guilty plea

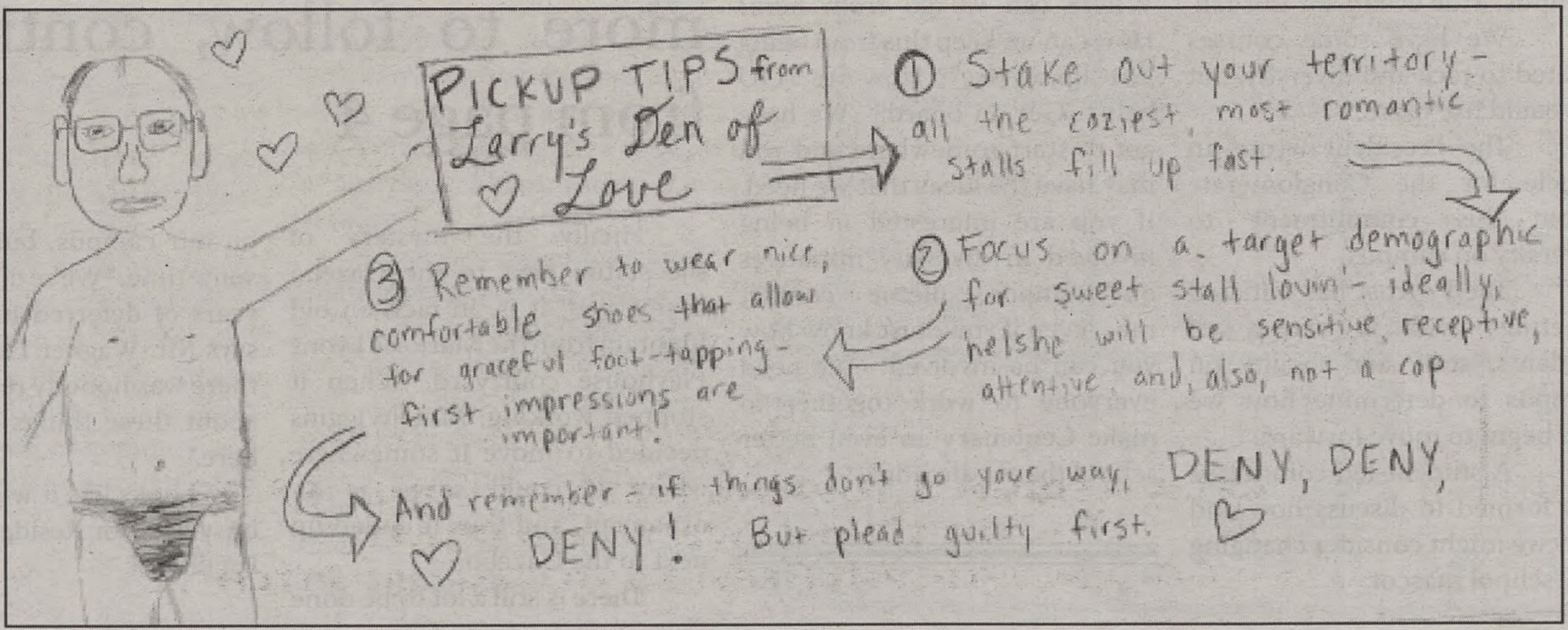
Beth Craft
Staff Writer

United States Senator Larry E. Craig of Idaho was arrested in early June for soliciting sex in the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport men's restroom. Roll Call, a Capitol Hill newspaper, reports the arresting officer's side of the story. Sgt. Dave Karsnia arrested Craig after Craig tapped his foot up and down, a signal Karsnia recognized as "a signal used by persons wishing to engage in lewd conduct." Karsnia moved his foot slowly up and down; Craig then touched Karsnia's foot and signaled three times with his hand under the stall. At this point Karsnia identified himself and made the arrest. Craig pled guilty to a misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct that he, according to The New York Times, said was "in hope of making it all go away." Unfortunately, the incident did not go away. Craig announced his resignation on Saturday, September 1, in order to pursue the legal issues. However, the Associated Press reported Wednesday, September 4, that Craig is rethinking his resignation and may still try to keep his seat. Craig denies having any sexual intent and insists he is innocent.

Several important issues surfaced during Craig's arrest and resignation. The first is that of Craig's arrest. Craig did not actually engage in any lewd activities, yet was still arrested. During a panel discussion on Larry King Live on August 30, panelist Mark Geragos, defense attorney who has covered similar cases, denies that the conduct in the restroom was lewd. Larry King asked him, "But what is lewd about feet touching feet?" Geragos said, "There isn't anything." He had previously told everyone that the arrest audiotape of Karsnia and Craig they had just listened to "was not lewd." Controversy surrounds the events that happened in the airport restroom. According to the arrest audiotape, after being asked by Karsnia how many times he had put his hand under the stall, Craig replied, "I don't recall. I remember reaching down once -- there was a piece of toilet paper back behind me -- and picking it up." Karsnia insists Craig had flashed his left hand under the stall, "and rubbed it on the bottom of the stall." During the same discussion, Dina Matos McGreevey, the estranged wife of former New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevey, who resigned after admitting to gay relations with a male employee, was called upon to offer her advice on the situation. She said, "Whatever the truth is, I think he needs to tell his wife and certainly tell his family and admit it to his constituents and certainly to the rest of the country."

In a video clip aired on Larry King Live on September 1, Craig voiced his reasons for resignation: "The people of Idaho deserve a senator who can devote 100 percent of his time and effort to the critical issues of our state and of our nation. Therefore, it is with sadness and deep regret that I announce that it is my intent to resign from the Senate effective September 30th." Earlier in his resignation speech, Craig apologized to his staff, constituents, colleagues, and family. But now questions are raised as to why Senator Craig felt he had to resign. On Larry King Live the same night, John Roberts, host of "American Morning," brought up the point of John McCain that Craig pled guilty not to lewd behavior or soliciting sex, but to a misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct, which "can be as much as making a loud noise." Roberts told King that he thinks there are plenty of examples where "people pled guilty to something like disorderly conduct and survived." He mentioned Patrick Kennedy and his guilty plea to driving under the influence of drugs. Kennedy kept his position as Representative of the First District of Rhode Island. Another example of a public official surviving scorn is David Vitter, whose number was recorded on the records of an escort service. Vitter was not charged with a crime. He faced serious public scorn and managed to keep his seat in the Senate. King then asked James Carville whether or not the place of the crime influenced the outcry against Craig. Carville, CNN political contributor and democratic strategic, responded affirmatively. "Yeah. It's a gay thing," he said. "It's a -- you know, public restroom. It couldn't have been more embarrassing." Another democratic strategist, Cheri Jacobus, said, "The problem is he did plead guilty. He could have fought it from the beginning but he didn't." Senator Craig has since said that he will resign on September 30 if he is not successful in withdrawing his guilty plea, as reported in The New York Times.

AMERICAN POLITICS


PICKUP TIPS from Larry's Den of Love
① Stake out your territory - all the coziest, most romantic stalls fill up fast.
② Focus on a target demographic for sweet stall lovin' - ideally, he/she will be sensitive, receptive, attentive, and, also, not a cop
③ Remember to wear nice, comfortable shoes that allow for graceful foot-tapping - first impressions are important!
And remember - if things don't go your way, DENY, DENY, DENY! But plead guilty first.

comic by Rhagen Russell

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown will likely not depart from Blair's Labour policies

Riley Adams
Staff Writer

On June 27, Tony Blair decided to step down from his role as Prime Minister and leader of Britain's Labour Party and to allow his replacement, Gordon Brown, to take charge.

Previously, Brown, the son of a Church of Scotland preacher, had supervised a period of financial prosperity in Britain, overseeing low inflation, low unemployment, and low interest rates as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the equivalent to Secretary of the Treasury in the United States.

According to The New York Times, in his former position, Brown's two main achievements were tighter spending guidelines, which he hoped would help to alleviate the Labour Party's "tax-and-spend" image, and the directing of federal savings to fund the poorly financed National Health Service.

Brown and Blair entered into politics together in 1983 as prominent young members of the opposed Labour Party. They were seen as the natural leaders of the party because of their youthful energy and forged a strong relationship very early in their political careers.

In 1994, when the election for Prime Minister loomed near, the two met privately to discuss their plans for the position. The suspected result of that meeting was for Brown to step aside and fully support his popular and articulate friend so long as he was made heir to the position.

For the entirety of the War in Iraq, Tony Blair and George W. Bush have been viewed as partners. Additionally, since Brown's coming to power, he has said that he plans to support Bush in Iraq. "We are on exactly the same path that I have set out, which is that we will continue to discharge our obligations to the Iraqi people, that we support their democracy," said Brown to reporters at his Downing Street office when he was asked if he was with President Bush on the issues of the Iraqi War (reported on National Public Radio).

When it comes to the differences in policy between Blair and Brown on the war, Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Philip Barker of Centenary believes that "there will likely be some change, but it's not going to be drastic. From the quotes I have seen, he is less supportive than Tony Blair… he will be a little bit more questioning."

"He doesn't have to make any difficult decisions," Dr. Barker went on to say. "Blair had already announced a withdrawal from Iraq before, so he can avoid those controversial decisions."

Gordon Brown describes himself as a "conviction politician" who believes in "duty, honesty, hard work, family and respect for others." He says that those values "are [his] moral compass."

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Sex and the Centenary: abstinence-only sex education only hurts young people

Southern Elle
Staff Writer

As a child of the abstinence-only era, I grew up knowing nothing about sex. My "sex talk" with my parents consisted of my mother handing me a maxi pad and telling me not to be afraid of the blood. My middle school biology teacher instructed us to memorize the technical terms of penis, vagina, ovary, uterus, and menstruation cycle amid immature giggles. My high school health teacher told us the first day of class that due to a previous lawsuit against the parish school board, she wasn't allowed to answer any questions that could possibly have to do with sex or sexuality. Then she handed us a book that claimed condoms have a 30% failure rate and factors such as "automobiles" and "alcohol" can lead to sexual activity – and told us to avoid both, along with the opposite sex, as much as possible.

You can imagine the jokes we made about sex ed in high school. But six years later, I find it's not as big of a joke as I had believed. In 2004, Republican Representative Henry Waxman funded a scientific study of the abstinence-only programs in the U.S. The results were stunning: 11 of the 13 federally funded programs contained "gross errors," such as the myth that condoms have a 30% failure rate (it's closer to 2%, if used correctly). We live in a country with the highest teenage pregnancy rates and STD-infection rates of any developed country in the world. It's more expensive to buy contraception and harder to get access to it than in any other developed nation. Yet our government still pours over $76 million into abstinence-only programs, hoping that someday teens wake up devoid of hormones and sex drives.

Just like every other student on this campus, I am a child born post-sexual revolution in a time when free love is just another risk factor for AIDS. But somehow this time has coincided with one of the most conservative zeitgeists in American history, leaving us starved for discourse about the risks of sex, the issues surrounding sexuality, and the solutions to problems like unplanned pregnancy and STDs. My generation is inundated with false information. Our sex educators lie to us, pro-life groups set up fancy websites giving false information on contraception and abortion, our President tells us that abstinence-only programs work, and our parents tell us that we'll "find out when we need to know." Really? So when is that? After my first kiss? When I'm legally old enough to own property? Or after I get sexually assaulted? Or when I am at the gynecologist getting treated for something I can't pronounce?

Unfortunately, the most vital education is that which our professors aren't offering us. When do they lecture us on how to get out of credit card debt? When do they teach us how to get a job that will pay for skyrocketing home loans? When do they offer classes on raising children or surviving the pitfalls of long-term commitment? And when do they teach us to protect ourselves?

Maybe I just wish I'd been born into a different era – one where books that mention menstruation weren't banned from public schools, where condoms weren't locked behind drug store counters, where my mom could have talked to me long enough to teach me how to say "no" without feeling guilty, where I wouldn't have to get embarrassed because I have a libido.

But that's not our world. The reality is that we're in college now. It's time we take control of our own educations. No one else takes the blame when you pay your bills late. No one else rescues you when you wreck your car. And no one can make choices for you on how to protect your body (along with your heart and mind) besides you. I started this column as a way to offer correct information – to help YOU sort the fact from the fiction. It's not to take pot-shots at alumni, to reflect on my fellow students or the administration, or to spark controversy. I started writing with the hope that we, the students, would finally have a source of straightforward information. And maybe my generation, the parents of the next decade, will finally have the courage to talk to their children – because no one else will.

On a side note, a friend pointed out that I did not mention dental dams in my safe sex discussion. My apologies for this horrible oversight!! Dental dams are used to create a barrier from spreading bodily fluids while performing oral sex on a woman. There are three ways to find dental dams: buy them at a store, cut a condom halfway through to create a flat sheet, or use plastic wrap – which is the most wonderful and cheap idea for safe sex ever.

Fact or Fiction? The truth behind tales of opium, Coke, & chocolate

Beth Craft
Staff Writer

For years, connections have been drawn between poppy seeds and opium, Coke and cocaine, and chocolate and acne. Whether these connections are true is another matter.

Can eating a poppy seed bagel result in a failed drug test? Did Coca-Cola really have cocaine in it? Does eating chocolate cause acne breakouts? The answers to these puzzling assumptions are revealed.

As most students know, many companies require a passed drug test before the hiring process is completed. What many students may not know is that eating a poppy seed bagel for breakfast actually can result in a drug test positive for opium, which is found in cocaine, heroin, and codeine.

Mythbusters of the Discovery Channel confirms it as fact: "While the amount you'd typically consume would be too small for you to feel the effects, it can produce a positive result in a urine drug test."

Coca-Cola inventor John Smith Pemberton was trying to make a great beverage with some medicinal value. The coca leaf works as a stimulate, digestive aid, and extender of life, so Pemberton decided to add some to his new drink. Once cocaine was discovered to be highly addictive, the drug was taken out of Coke.

continued on pg. 9

Fact or fiction? The truth behind the tales, continued from page 8

As teenagers struggle with acne problems, they are told that eating chocolate will induce future breakouts. Mythbusters shot down this myth and science hails in favor.

The Acne Resource Center Online actually suggests that chocolate may stop acne breakouts. Recent science has suggested chocolate "boosts the serotonin in the brain that produces a calming effect and stability."

Since stress has been recognized as a cause of acne, the Center concludes that if chocolate "stimulates the serotonin and calms the nerves, then chocolate could ironically be found to assist in acne restraint." Eat on, chocolate lovers, with no fear of disastrous breakouts.

A popular motto among teachers here at Centenary is to believe nothing and question everything. The next time someone says something that sounds a little fuzzy, look it up. Students will be amazed at what they find to be fact and fiction.

VOTE NOW!

Who do you want to speak for you?

Elections for SGA candidates are now open.

Voting will end on **Wednesday, September 19th.**

Meet Claudia Aust, a business student from Dresden, Germany

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

Congo: Could you say a few words about yourself?

Claudia: My name is Claudia and I'm from Germany. I study General Business Administration in Dresden. I'm in my third year.

Congo: What is a common misconception about Germany?

Claudia: Well, Germany is known as the beer drinking country. But I don't like beer and a lot of my friends don't like beer. You can buy a lot of beer there, true, but people aren't always drunk.

Congo: What made you decide on Centenary?

Claudia: Well, it's a partner university of my home university, so my home advisor recommended Centenary, and… I didn't have another choice, honestly. But I like it very much and I'm glad to be here.

Congo: What's your favorite and least favorite thing about our school so far?

Claudia: I like the organization of everything: you're never bored and there's always something to do because a lot of events are organized. What I don't like is the air conditioning in the rooms! It's cold and I'm always freezing. No one knows how to adjust it and it feels like winter in Germany.

Congo: What is your favorite class?

Claudia: I can't really say because some classes are really difficult to understand for me right now. What's easy to understand for me is my elementary French class because everybody is a beginner, so it's OK.

Congo: Is this your first time being in the United States?

Claudia: Yes.

Congo: What surprised you the most about the United States and/or Centenary?

Claudia: I didn't expect the community and the organization of everything, as well as the very small classes compared to Germany. I was surprised by the equipment of the classrooms, too. Also, what's really American is the ice in cups – the huge amount of ice in cups, when you get a beverage. The drink is cold enough, and yet you always get a huge amount of ice. That's really American.

Congo: What are your hobbies?

Claudia: In Germany, I like cycling, playing soccer, and in the winter, skiing. I need the workout.

Congo: What's one item on your To-Do-Before-I-Die list?

Claudia: I'd like to travel to more countries in the world. I've been to Spain, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Poland, the Czech Republic... The farthest I've ever been is Australia – it was really awesome.

Congo: If someone made a movie about your life, would it be a drama? A comedy? A horror movie?

Claudia: Not a horror movie! But I would like to watch a comedy about myself.

Congo: If you could design your own course at Centenary, what would it be?

Claudia: I like calculations, so it would be something related to logic… I love numbers!

Photo by Mindy McKoin.

Healthy eating and fun workouts are primary ways to combat the freshman 15

Sara Carpenter
Staff Writer

The freshman fifteen is a shadow that seems to haunt all college students. Actually, forget the freshman fifteen. Students should worry about their health throughout their college careers. Here are some easy ways to make sure you don't gain any unnecessary pounds during your college experience.

Stock your room with healthy foods. When you go shopping, bypass the Lay's potato chips and get 100-calorie crackers or popcorn. Fruit, yogurt, and soup are great snacks to keep in your room. They satisfy your hunger and minimize grazing throughout the night.

Don't be ridiculous. If you live on campus, walk everywhere. If you need to go to CVS, grab a buddy and walk. Centenary is centrally located to a lot of places. Use that to your advantage.

The Fitness Center is here for you to use. There are aerobics classes available. Swimming laps is fun and a great low-impact exercise. Check out the Centenary website for schedules.

Don't feel like you have to go to the Fitness Center everyday. Get involved with intramurals. Make your workouts fun for you. It'll be easier to stick to a workout schedule if you enjoy doing it.

Don't take the elevator in Jackson unless you have to! Walking up and down stairs can be really tiring, but if you have classes in there a lot, you'll get used to it and it's a great workout.

Alcohol, sodas, and juices high in sugar have lots of calories. Drink plenty of water instead.

The dining hall is a great place, but be careful. Limit portions and don't go back for seconds and thirds. Make sure you get plenty of fruits and vegetables and don't overdo the dressing on salads. Registered dietitian Elizabeth Somer says, "People who successfully manage their weight give themselves permission to be imperfect. They allow themselves treats. Labeling foods "bad" or "forbidden" only makes those foods more desirable, and when your resistance breaks down you'll overeat the very foods you worked so hard to avoid." Be intentional about eating healthy foods, but don't give up if you overindulge.

This by no means is an all-inclusive list, but if you follow these tips you should be fine. Remember that the freshman fifteen is not inevitable. For more tips, check out www.balancemindbodysoul.com/fresh_15.pdf. CNN.com and ABC.com. These sites have good advice for keeping the weight off. Doing research and staying informed is one of the best things you can do to begin a healthy lifestyle. Health Services is a great resource on campus. It is located on the Kings Highway side of Rotary. Molly Manno is the director and her e-mail is mmanno@centenary.edu.

New Wal-Mart and Target stores battle for massive retail dominance in the Shreveport-Bossier City area

Rachel DeLoach
Staff Writer

About two weeks ago, a new Wal-Mart opened on Shreveport-Barksdale Highway. Yesterday, I decided to check it out myself.

An old clothing store, Burlington Coat Factory, was torn down to make room for the new Wal-Mart, which happens to be one of the largest Wal-Marts in the country.

Just by walking around, you find all the aisles have been made wider than normal to make way for all those crazy, rush hour shoppers.

Many of the departments have also been enlarged, such as the media and produce departments, which are double the size I've ever seen in any Wal-Mart.

Another great feature is that this Wal-Mart is easy to navigate. Finding your way around this ginormous super center is easy as pie.

But if you're not a Wal-Mart kind of guy or gal, there is a new Target on Airline Drive. This isn't a super center, but it definitely gets a thumbs-up.

Even though it doesn't carry your veggies or fresh-baked cookies, it does have a large freezer and a refrigerated area.

Another favorite thing about this store is its great selection of nifty school supplies - which, seeing as school is in session, is a plus.

So, if you are fed up with fighting the lines at Airline Drive or just can't seem to find your Brookshire's card, try these new stores. I'm sure you will be pleased.

WAL*MART
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Pictured above: the new Wal-Mart Supercenter on Shreveport-Barksdale Highway. Photo by Emily DeLatin.

Meet David Hobson, the new Choir Director and Lecturer of Music

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Conglomerate: Can you briefly introduce yourself to our readers?

Hobson: Sure. My name is David Hobson and I am the new director of the Centenary Choir after Will Andress, who retired after 33 years, which is a little bit daunting. I actually was in the choir myself from 94 to 98. So I know the group well. I am also teaching as a full-time faculty member of the Hurley School of Music, so I teach the sacred music classes when they come along. I also teach music appreciation and voice lessons.

Congo: What did you do before you became a professor here at Centenary?

Hobson: I'm in the midst of finishing my doctorate in choral conducting at LSU. I have my BMA in conducting and I have my Masters in Sacred Music at Emory and also in choral conducting, which is like half-music and half-theology. So in addition to doing those two things over the last ten years, I have done quite a bit of church work, both full-time and part-time.

Congo: What do you think your biggest challenge will be as the new choir director?

Hobson: Honoring what it has been, which has been of tremendous value to the college, and acclimating myself to it in a different role, and seeing where we can go in the future. Honoring the tradition and heritage and finding ways, inevitably, that we can improve upon that and be of greater service to the students and to the college.

Congo: How does it feel to be the choir director now, especially since you were once a part of the choir?

Hobson: It feels good. It feels right. And I don't mean to say that arrogantly or anything. It was a group that was very important to me as an undergraduate. I think it helped build me a lot of confidence, a lot of character. It gave me a lot of opportunities to explore who I was in the midst of a larger group that had expectations. From that, it propelled me out into doing church work later in my graduate degrees. Along the way, I haven't ever lost my passion for church music. My degree from Centenary is in Sacred Music. But I also wanted to find a place where I could work in an academic setting, too. So this was the perfect opportunity to return, not only because I love the choir. It was important to me, but it also allowed me to keep a foot in both worlds at all times, too. So it fills my Sacred Music interests and my longing to work on the academic level.

Congo: What are the plans for the choir this year? Any tours or anything?

Hobson: This is a non-overseas tour year. We do the overseas trip every other year and we just got back from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. So this year, typically, is a little lower key. We'll still do 30-35 performances. We have two tours each semester. We have our mid-year tour before the second semester begins. So, in some sense, it is a normal-type year without the big overseas trip, which will be next year.

Congo: What are your hobbies outside of the classroom and the choir?

Hobson: I enjoy sports, either following or just playing a pick-up game. I have two kids, and their hobbies tend to become my hobbies now. I have a little one who is 4 and a half and a 10-month old, so I spend a lot of time with family, because that is important to me.

Congo: What are your pet peeves, especially in class?

Hobson: Lateness.

Photo by Mindy McKoin.

Do you love movies?

If so, the Centenary Film society would like to invite you to join us for free movies on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Movies start at 7pm and are screened in Carlile auditorium.

On September 18th and 20th we are showing

Little Children

The lives of several young adults cross in many surprising and possibly dangerous ways revolving around a small community's playgrounds and pools. Whether a stay-at-home mom (Kate Winslet) or a newly released felon many demons must be confronted in even the most benign of places. The film is based on the novel by Tom Perrotta.

*"The rarest of movies - a literary multi-character drama. From the erudition of the voiceover narrative to the three dimensionality of the characters, Field's film is the closest it's possible to get to a book without reading one." -James Berardinelli, Reel Reviews

Advice from Allison: do not mention that last restraining order when flirting with new prospects

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

Disclaimer: The opinions and ideas expressed by this article do not in any way reflect those of Centenary College, the Conglomerate, or the writer herself. In fact, these ideas probably don't express any intelligently informed opinions anyway.

Dear Allison,

I am a freshman girl and there is a boy in my First Year Experience class that I am interested in. I want so desperately to talk to him, but we don't have anything in common. What should I do?

-First Year Inexperienced

Dear Inexperienced,

We have all been in this love conundrum before. There are an infinite number of topics you could discuss with this dashing young gentleman. For example, does he like sports? Is knitting his fancy? Has he ever done jail time? These are surefire ways to start up a stimulating conversation that will leave him wondering what your name is.

While you can say all the right things, you are not immune to making a few conversational faux pas. Make sure not to say too much information about yourself.

A few topics to steer clear from would be your last relationship, your back acne problem, the way you called your ex-boyfriend ten times a day after you broke up just to make sure he was still uninterested, your collection of hair from your ex-boyfriend, and that pesky restraining order your ex-boyfriend just filed against you.

If, in the end, this rugged little FYE boy is not interested, always remember that the restraining order is only for the next five years.

Dear Allison,

I am a sophomore transfer student. Since I came to Centenary one year after my peers, I am having a difficult time making friends with my age group. What should I do?

-Sequestered Sophomore

Dear Sequestered,

I have attended this school for an entire two years and I STILL don't have friends. Actually, I'm kidding. Everyone's got friends here. That means there must be something wrong in your approach, or with you. Let's ask ourselves a few questions:

1) Do you not bathe/shower on a regular basis?

2) Do you have a tendency to talk about eye infections or your dog that just died?

3) Are you a Residence Assistant?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, and I am sure you did, then it appears that it may be your problem. Maybe lighten up on that conjunctivitis talk.

If, in the end, you are unable to find your niche, at least pretend to have friends. Maybe your imaginary friends can introduce you to a few cool people.

Strange but true news: new camera is programmed to only photograph smiling people

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

For today's issue of my weird news column, we will play a little game.

Below, you will find four brief news segments that I hope will make you go "ZOMG WHAT??" The best part, as always, is that they're all true... all except one.

Which is where You, the reader, come in. For it is your mission to decide which of the four is but a figment of my imagination and which are indeed real. Once you've made up your mind, you will find the answer on page 21.

Good luck, grasshopper!

1) A new Sony camera is about to hit the markets in Japan. For a whopping 40,000 yen, or about $345, Cyber-shot T can be set so that it simply does not take pictures of grumpy people.

The owner can manipulate the "threshold smile" that is allowed, so that if uncle Bob is obviously not making an effort at a real smile, the shutter will be dropped and the family album will be saved.

2) In case you missed it on ESPN, the second European Championship at boggy meadow mowing was a blast.

Held at the Biebrzanski National Park in Poland, the event had teams hailing from all around the world...or at least from Poland, Slovakia and Russia.

The goal was to mow a 100-meter (about 330-foot) long strip of a meadow as fast as possible, though the quality of the mowing was also taken into consideration.

The event was supposed to promote the old-fashioned mowing in the region and to bring attention to the endangered national park, inhabited by many rare species of birds.

3) Children in Kansas have another reason to cry. The new mechanical L.O.C.U.S.T is now making sure that broccoli gets on their plate nice and healthy.

ArCo., an agricultural engineering firm from Wichita, has developed a fully automated robot army of locust. Think Michael Crichton's "Prey," but scarier. L.O.C.U.S.T, which stands for too much to possibly care about, is currently being tested on farms in East Kansas. If it works, it will revolutionize the organic food market and bring us one step closer to the robot invasion.

4) I always thought MY dog was spoiled, but Trouble now tops even my min pin. The lucky pup has just inherited $12 million from her late owner, who happened to be New York hotelier and real estate billionaire Leona Helmsley.

Of course, Mrs. Hemsley left some money to her family and friends, as well - just not as much as to her dog. Trouble is now officially the Paris Hilton of the canine world.

Just wait until she gets her own reality show with Tinkerbell.

A&E

FILM INDUSTRY LOCAL NEWS

Tia Landrum
Staff Writer

Currently Auditioning:

"Wonderful World," starring Matthew Broderick

"K-Ville," the new drama series about life in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina (first episode airs Monday, September 17th, at 8 pm central on Fox)

"Middle of Nowhere," starring Susan Sarandon

"State," a film centered around the sport of softball

Now Filming:

2006's "Pulse" has two sequels slated to film in Shreveport, particularly at Stageworks for the "green screen" special effects. The second film in the trilogy is "Pulse: Afterlife;" the third is "Pulse: Invasion."

Updates on past projects:

Shot in Louisiana earlier this year, Stephen King's "The Mist" slated for release on November 21st. The trailer is now available online at various websites including YouTube.com.

New production "The Fantasticks" twists a fairytale into an enjoyable modern story

Jenni Loer
Theatre Correspondent

If you have never seen a Gilbert and Sullivan production, this is your opportunity to spend a glorious evening under a beautiful moon with a cast of stars. The plot: a young man, Matt (Steven McDonald), and a girl, Luisa (Jennifer White), are separated by a wall built by their fathers, who secretly use it to draw them closer together. The Mute (Bradly McCollum) acts as the prop master and scenic technician during the show, creating a moonlit evening fit for "The Fantasticks." The plot thickens when El Gallo (Kent Jude Bernard, Jr.), the narrator, introduces Henry the Actor (John Chambers) and his accomplice, Mortimer the Man Who Dies (Luke Sexton) to help achieve the two fathers' dream of uniting their children. The "happily ever after" is thwarted in the second act when Bellomy (Richard Stovall), Luisa's Father, over-waters Hucklebee's (Tim Glennon) garden. Hucklebee, in turn, prunes his neighbor's cumquat.

Jennifer White, a Centenary student, showcases operatic singing talents equivalent to that of any fairytale princess. The two fathers, Tim Glennon and Richard Stovall, sing a few dazzling duets, complete with cheesy dancing. Kent Jude Bernard, Jr. uses his Spanish cape to woo his audience and sings the fate of his co-stars. The young man and woman serenade each other in a "Sixteen Going on Seventeen" fashion, yet Steven McDonald really shines in his solos.

The cynical twist on what would otherwise be a "happily ever after" fairytale gives the production a modern feel. An intimate setting engages the audience (although occasionally the actors are dancing in the audience's lap), yet the minimalist set decked with twinkle lights and strewn with metallic fabrics enhances the show without being showy. Talent, especially that of singing, abounds in this cast. Prepare for the first act to be as long as a short production of its own, which is the script's intention, yet stay for the realistic side of the fairytale when the sun comes up and the magic of the moon has dissolved.

The final performances of "The Fantasticks" will take place at the BackAlley Community Theatre on September 14th and 15th at 7:30pm. Call 318-347-5258 to reserve tickets.

Spoon's new album is a must-have for indie-pop fans

Courtney Delaney
Layout Assistant

The Austin-based band Spoon has been a popular name amongst indie-pop since the release of their third album "Girls Can Tell" in 2001. A year later, their album "Kill the Moonlight" cemented their popularity, featuring their most acclaimed hit, "The Way We Get By."

In July, Spoon released its sixth album, "Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga," which has been praised by The New Yorker as "[their] best yet." Lead singer and songwriter Brit Daniels, who has already proven himself in five previous albums, has pulled off yet another hit. Managing to stay true to their minimalist style, Spoon presents listeners with a refreshing new album without changing their sound. Previously, the band had been awkwardly placed in the "dance rock" genre; this album proves that their style is much more versatile. Instead, the album has a slower pace, yet a more upbeat sound on the whole.

The album opens with "Don't Make Me a Target," which may not be the best song of the bunch, but lets listeners know right off the bat that Spoon's sound has not changed. It starts the album off beautifully and prepares listeners for the greatness that is yet to come.

"You Got Yr. Cherry Bomb" is undoubtedly the shining star of the album. Daniels sings "It was the longest day that I had ever known/I watched you start that drive alone" in a mournful voice, then dives straight into a catchy chorus, staying true to Spoon's "spiky" pop style.

"Black Like Me" closes the thirty-six minute long album with style and a melody that can only be describe as gorgeous. The overlapping combination of Daniels on acoustic guitar and Eric Harvey on piano is melancholic and painstakingly beautiful. Yet by the end of the song, Spoon's spirit returns and listeners find themselves tapping their toes to its irresistible beat.

Spoon's past albums have been obviously influenced by bands like The Pixies and Gang of Four. Yet "Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga" has more varied influences from, Motown to Billy Joel. It's truly an album any indie-pop fan should not pass up.

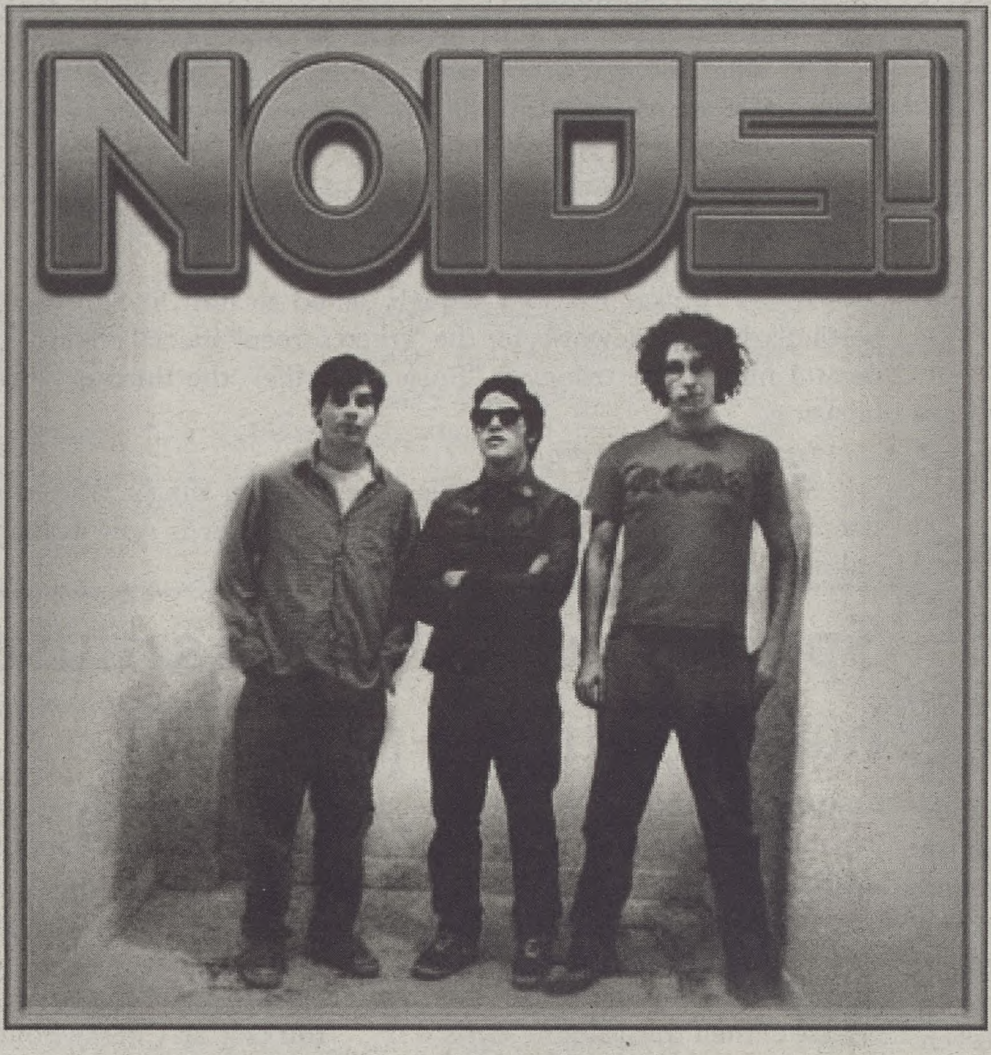


Image designed by Paul Garner of The Noids!.

Local band The Noids! hope to erase Shreveport's artistic apathy with a mix of punk, rock, and blues

Tia Landrum
Staff Writer

According to the local band's frontman, Paul Garner, The Noids! began on a whim.

"I wanted to do something different," said Garner. "I just happened to meet up with the right people."

Created in 2004, the original band began evolving along with Shreveport's music scene.

"There have been four different versions of the Noids!. Every year, there's been a different lineup for the band," said Centenary student Jesse Gabriel, percussionist for the band.

Now, the three current band members have found musical refuge at a hole-in-the-wall restaurant, where they play at least once a month. Almost every other weekend, The Noids! play at Big D's Barbecue on Common Street in Shreveport.

They promote a menu item invented for and named after them called the "Noids! Burger" (a sandwich described by Garner as a "hamburger and chopped beef sandwich combined and covered with secret sopping sauce on Texas toast"). With the ability to play for all ages, the band has found a venue that is rare for musicians in Shreveport.

"The problem with this scene is that the same 25 people come to every show," said Centenary student Connor Davis, lead guitarist for the band. "There aren't any places to play - at least any 18-and-up venues. In this town, there's nowhere to play for an audience that can't drink."

However, fans find ways of showing support despite age obstacles.

"If you see an 'N' painted anywhere with a lightning bolt or a little dot above it, it is synonymous with this band," said Gabriel. "It's on trash cans; I think it's on a manhole somewhere. It's everywhere."

"Yeah," said Davis. "'N' marks the spot."

Recently, the band members have begun speaking out against artistic apathy in the city of Shreveport, hoping to promote more support for musicians.

"Save Shreveport," said Garner.

"The problem is, if I graduated from Centenary with a degree in Classical Guitar Performance, where could I play? There's nothing for me here," said Davis. "The first thing I'd have to do is leave."

The band continues to perform where they are legally able, playing songs from their first album, a recently-released CD featuring the city of Shreveport on the cover.

"I'd call it old-school punk mixed with old-school rock and the blues," said Davis.

The Noids! plan to use album profits to help fund a tour this fall with fellow local band Sunday Mass Murder. To preview their album or find other information on the band, one can visit their website at myspace.com/noids.

The Shreveport Little Theatre presents

SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN HOMECOMING!

by Connie Ray, Alan Bailey & Mike Craver

It's October 1945, and the gospel-singing Sanders Family is back together again. The war is over and America's years of prosperity are just beginning. But there's another kind of rite of passage at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, where Reverent Mervin Oglethorpe is giving his last service. He's been called to preach in Texas, and he's already bought a ten-gallon hat and is preparing to ride into the sunset with his wife June, who is eight months pregnant. Tomorrow morning, young Dennis Sanders takes over as Mount Pleasant's pastor. Join the Sanders Family as they send Mervin and June off in style, with hilarious and touching stories and twenty-five toe-tapping Bluegrass Gospel favorites.

September 13, 14, 15, 2007 at 8 p.m. &
September 15 & 16 at 2 p.m., at LSUS
University Center Theater
Call the Box Office at (318)424-4439
Monday-Friday 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Copeland's Cheesecake Bistro is a matter of time vs. taste

Kat Michiels
Staff Writer

After a ridiculously long wait of about two years, Copeland's Cheesecake Bistro, located on the Boardwalk, is open. It is serving excellent food at slightly high prices, with questionable customer service and an extremely long wait time. And for most college students, time is money. But food equals happiness.

The Cheesecake Bistro has a 12-page menu full of things to satisfy even the pickiest of eaters. Tempted though you may be to write it off as a steak and seafood place, the menu includes pizza, burgers, wraps, rotisserie, vegetarian options, and most importantly, cheesecake.

The food is exquisite and well- prepared. No matter what you choose (go for the crab and crawfish bake), the food is sure to be excellent. I can't recommend everything you need to try, but go down the menu, and if the description sounds good and you like the ingredients, then it will probably make your mouth very, very happy.

However, the Bistro has some issues.

1) Wait time: I have never had a wait time of less than 30 minutes, weeknight or weekend. Last weekend, the wait time was 2 hours and 50 minutes. I went to Saltgrass instead. However, the restaurant is still new, so this will eventually taper down.

2) Slow/Poor Service: Granted, they are obviously busy, but our table waited twenty minutes for two martinis and two glasses of water. About an hour after ordering our main dishes, we received them. We didn't see our waitress again until she brought our bill, which brings me to my next point.

3) Price: Depending on your finances and how much you like food, the Bistro may be a little expensive. If you are paying alone, plan to spend at least thirty dollars if you get an appetizer, a main dish, a piece of cheesecake, and a non-alcoholic beverage. If it's a date, then make sure your date pays.

But really, you have to prioritize. If you are okay with spending money on food, then you need to at least try it out, because the food - oh, the food. But does that make up for the slow service and high prices?

No, but get a slice of cheesecake for about six dollars and all will be forgiven.

MOVIE TIMES

this Friday through Sunday

3:10 to Yuma
Regal Louisiana Boardwalk Stadium 14
(12:50), (4:40), 7:35, 10:15
Halloween
Regal Louisiana Boardwalk Stadium 14
(11:45), (12:20), (2:20), (2:50), (4:50),
(5:20), 7:30, 8:00, 10:00, 10:30

"3:10 to Yuma" revives the old-school western genre

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

They just don't make movies like they used to. That much became evident when I sat down in the theater to watch a western. You know, the genre of movies that is basically dead. I have never been the biggest western fan, but I have seen a movie that might change minds about the genre, if you give it the chance.

The movie is "3:10 to Yuma."

The movie centers on Dan Evans (Christian Bale), a rancher with money troubles, who witnesses a stagecoach robbery by the brutal bandit Ben Wade (Russell Crowe). When Wade is captured in the nearby town of Bixby, Evans decides to join the group that is taking Wade to a train that will take him to the Yuma prison. However, Wade's gang decides to rescue their captive leader. So it becomes a race to see who can get to the train first.

First off, the main reason that I went to see this movie was to watch two of the best actors today going at it. Let me say, for the record, that they did not disappoint. In fact, they elevated the movie from pretty good to amazing. Crowe makes Ben Wade one of the most charmingly cold-blooded killers in recent memory, and Bale makes Evans an intense hero. Then there is Ben Foster, who plays the psychotic Charlie Prince, one of the most brutal villains that I have seen in a long time. He sets the standard for how a psychotic villain is supposed to be played.

As in any good western, the scenery is beautiful, with some incredible desert settings and mountain terrain. The music also hearkens back to the old spaghetti westerns in tone and spirit. It is a great mood-builder.

Another plus to the movie is the almost complete lack of CGI (Computer Generated Imagery), which is a very welcome breath of fresh air after the very CGI-heavy summer.

The movie sports some very brutal and intense action scenes. The gunfights are fast and bloody. The highlights include the opening stagecoach chase, a chase through a railroad construction site, and the final shootout. The kills are no less brutal, with a death by fork and a horse exploding with the rider still on him.

My only real complaint with the movie was that Luke Wilson randomly showed up as a railroad worker. His presence took me out of the movie, especially his ridiculously fake accent.

This movie is basically a throwback to the westerns of old, but without the stereotypical Indians. So, if you are a fan of old-school westerns or westerns in general, then this is definitely the movie for you.

Even if you are not a fan of westerns, you owe it to yourself to check out this movie so you can see two of the best actors working today doing what they do best. Of course, you could also see this movie because it is really entertaining and ultimately a very good way to spend a couple of hours. Hitch a ride on the "3:10 to Yuma," because it is a ride well worth taking.

Meadows Museum: "City of Hope" showcases photos of New Orleans post-Katrina

Riley Adams
Staff Writer

In Meadows Museum from August 19 to October 28, "City of Hope: Photographs of the Crescent City 2005 and 2007" will be on display. The museum is located on Centenary Boulevard, by the main entrance of the campus, and is open six days a week.

This exhibit was organized by Meadows Museum of Art in cooperation with the New Orleans Museum of Art and the Arthur Roger Gallery of New Orleans.

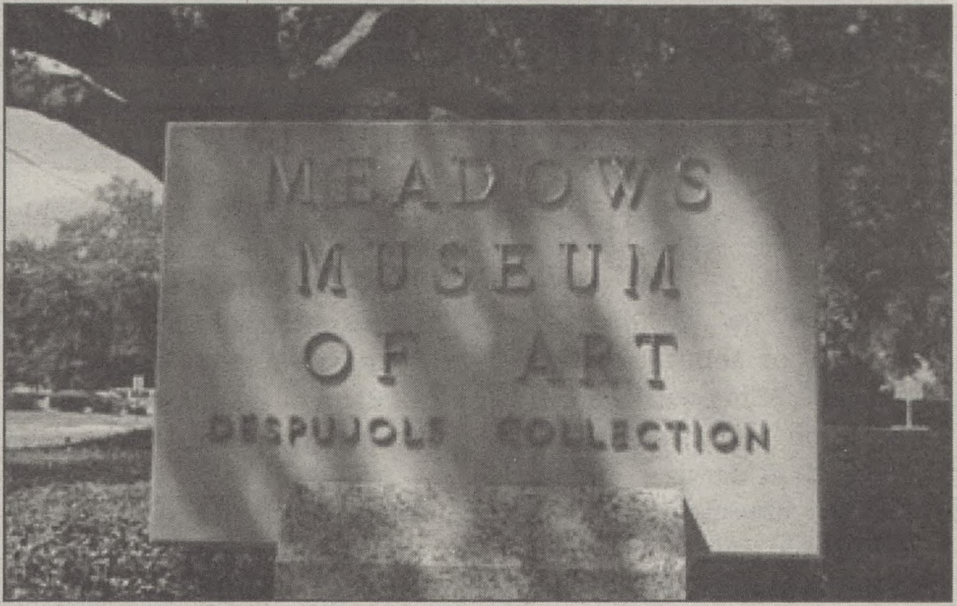
Inside, there are several black and white paintings that incorporate many different parts of New Orleans, such as balconies iconic to the French Quarter, street signs, people, and debris from after the storm.

The other half of the exhibit contains many vividly detailed pictures of ruined New Orleans homes, businesses, and streets immediately after Katrina, and then also from two years later - without much change between the photographs.

The Meadows Museum of Art receives general support from the Shreveport Regional Arts Council with funds from the City of Shreveport. The exhibit is meant to be a project to teach and to engage the community through visual arts.

Source: Meadows Museum of Art Printed Material

Photograph by Emily DeLatin



Movie review: New "Halloween" offers entertaining insight into the original

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Remakes are rarely, if ever, better than the original - but as Rob Zombie did not even attempt one, I was not disappointed in the new "Halloween."

This new version, released August 31, is more of a prequel than a remake, giving insight on Michael Myers as a young boy. It shows him with his family, at school, and how he treated animals.

The movie also shows what occurred that fateful Halloween night. It shows how he killed each person in the house. I enjoy that it shows where he got the infamous mask and that it also takes us through his stay at the mental hospital and his escape, which is really entertaining. The first kill is also a standout scene.

I enjoyed the movie and I recommend that you see it. I must advise you, though, to not go to the moving trying to compare it to or see if it surpasses the original. Though it is similar, it is a movie all of its own. It has the typical horror movie antics, but this is another chapter for one of the greatest villains of all time.

I give "Halloween" my highest recommendation.

Summer music hits range from rock to rap to pop

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

This summer we had a multitude of musicians and music to listen to. From rock stars to pop stars, it was a great summer for music. Let's see what ten of the hottest songs this summer were.

10. "Hey hey, you, you," Avril Lavigne's "Girlfriend" was as popular as it was addictive. That's why it starts off the top ten.

9. Yes, the video had an unexpected twist, but R. Kelly and Usher's "Same Girl" still makes the list. Have you heard the remix?

8. Though the original was a smash, Rihanna's remix of "Umbrella/Cinderella" featuring Chris Brown and Jay-Z made it rain more.

7. The King of the South, T.I., added fun to the summer with "Big Things Poppin' (Do It)".

6. Even if you had no one to kick to the left, to the left, Beyoncé's "Irreplaceable" was still an anthem.

5. His mellow voice and the way the song made people feel wanted made Robin Thicke's "Lost Without You" one of the best songs this summer.

4. "Shoulders, chest, pants, shoes." Baton Rouge's Foxx, Boosie, and Webbie put an effective spin on a classic children's song and made a super smash hit with "Wipe Me Down."

3. "Yull!" "Party like a Rockstar" was without a doubt one of the most listened to, downloaded, and recited songs of the summer. By combining rock with hip-hop, the Shop Boyz made a song that had many people rocking out this summer. "Totally dude!"

2. Whether you cried when your favorite Idol got voted off (Sanjaya, Melinda, or Blake) or just loved the song, Daughtry's "Home" was a huge song this summer.

1. The return of braids and beads was made with Hurricane Chris' "A Bay Bay." Chris, who lives and filmed his video in Shreveport, Louisiana, had the biggest song of the summer with a catchy hook that had many screaming and doing the handclap.

Alpha Psi Omega's first-ever coffehouse will offer music and mocha in the theatre lobby

Jenni Loer
Theatre Correspondent

The Theatrical Honors Fraternity, Alpha Psi Omega, is sponsoring a coffeehouse in the lobby of Marjorie Lyons Playhouse this Saturday at 7 p.m. The evening will feature a live band of Centenary students, a Muslin Mural for all guests of the coffeehouse to paint, a game of Twister, a raffle to win a free dinner, and all the coffee you can drink. This will be the first fundraiser for Alpha Psi Omega; everyone is encouraged to come to help make this first attempt a success. All the proceeds for the evening will go towards equipment to update the theatre, such as a new sound system, and to fund a new scholarship formed by the Alpha Psi Omega officers that will go to an outstanding freshman at the end of their first year.

Come have a relaxing evening in the theatre with good music and great company. The admission price is only two dollars ($2), and when Centenary students get into all the performances at the playhouse completely free, this is like paying two bucks for season tickets! The raffle will be one dollar for participants and the restaurant will be announced while tickets are being taken. Coffee, teas, and cocoa will be available free with admission, but bring some extra change and indulge in a few specialty drinks as well. All the activities are free.

Alpha Psi Omega thanks you for your continued support of the theatre department. Everyone at the theatre loves to entertain and finally there is an opportunity to do it out of costume. The festivities start at 7 p.m. in the lobby of the theatre (where you pick up your tickets usually). This is a great opportunity to see all your favorite actors and technicians un-costumed and unscripted. If you have yet to venture to the theatre, this is your opportunity to locate it on the corner of campus, down the hill from the Caf, before the first show opens in a couple of weeks.

See you at the theatre this Saturday for Music & Mocha.

91.3 FM KSCL

Do you want your own radio show?
Contact program director
Allison Patrick at alpatric@centenary.edu

Sunday
10am-12pm: Philosophy Talk
12pm-2pm: Nadine's World Beat
6pm-8pm: Allison & Lizzie's 4th
8pm-10pm: The Jar Jar Boogie Show with Kyle King
10pm-12am: Mother McCree's Uptown Radio Show with Russell
12am-2am: High-Five a Cactus with Liz & Frank

Monday:
7am-8am: Making Contact
2pm-4pm: Scheduled Randomness with Mo Derick
6pm-8pm: I am Not Sure at this Time with Jack Pleasant
10pm-12am: Indieed with Katherine

Tuesday:
12pm-2pm: Smells Like Cheese with Chameleon
2pm-4pm: Slapdash with Delaney
4pm-6pm: Our Own Introspective Nightmare with The Ben Ben
6pm-8pm: The Voice of Schleuss
8pm-10pm: Hey Hey with Chrissy Mae

Wednesday:
7am-8am: Making Contact
10am-12am: Philosophy Talk
6pm-8pm: The Magical Mystery Bus with Tyler
8pm-10pm: Kamamayhem with Riley
10pm-12pm: Johnny Panic and the Bible of Dreams

Thursday:
12pm-2pm: Lovin the Top 30 with Nicole
6pm-8pm: The Exquisite Jukebox
8pm-10pm: Super Fun Wacky Time with Keith
10pm-12am: Red Filing Cabinet

Friday:
8am-10am: Angry Ducks with Teeth with John
12pm-2pm: The Two Hour Talk-Show Rock-Show with Stephen and Lauren
2pm-4pm: Melodies and Memories with Shiva
4pm-6pm: The Horn with DJ K
6pm-8pm: Rock Fight! with Kevan
12am-2am: Once Seen and Now Heard with Austin

Saturday:
10am-12pm: The Blue Plate Special with DJ PJ
8pm-10pm: U-235 Radio Active with Gideon

SPORTS

Men's soccer team is optimistic about upcoming season

Thomas Wartelle
Staff Writer

Soccer season is underway, and the 2007 Gents team has been working hard since midsummer to make this one their best yet. Coming off a 4-1 loss to Missouri State last Saturday, the team, 0-2, is nevertheless optimistic about the future. "The results so far are not representative of the hard work we have and continue to put in everyday...we are constantly improving," said Freshman Dragan Hinic, a midfielder from Serbia. "We (the team) are pretty close...we push each other to become better players and people. We share the same goal - to win games and make it to the conference finals. This alone has brought us closer together as a team." When asked about his individual goals for this season, Dragan replied, "to adapt to the team's style of play, and help the team to reach its goal and to play every game with all I have." With plenty of season left, the Gents are certainly capable of doing just that. After losing an away game 0-4 at UAB on Sunday, September 9, the Gents headed back home on Wednesday to take on Belhaven at 6 p.m. on Mayo field. The result was a 2-0 win for the Gents that should build confidence for this weekend's games.

The Gents soccer team grasp victory at their home game against Belhaven Wednesday night. Photo from GoCentenary.com

Female athletes make the tough transition from high school to college competition

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

Whilenewfirstyearstudents at Centenary may find moving from high school to college life stressful, athletes also have to cope with more complicated skills and more difficult judging as well as competing against more advanced players.

First year gymnastics team members Alyssa Zaweiga and Marisa Schneider agree that there is a world of difference between high school and college sports.

"In high school, it's more of an individual competition," Schneider said. "Here at college it's very team-oriented; you practice as a team, condition as a team, compete as a team. You want the whole team to win, not just yourself. The individual doesn't prove anything for the school."

"The transition's pretty tough," Zaweiga said. "College gymnastics are judged off of a level 10 scale, right under elite, which is at the Olympic level...In high school it's only level 7 or 8. The point system is so different; the jumps you're mostly doing in high school are A's and C's (A scale is very basic, E is very difficult), while in college you definitely need C's and up. College competition is harder-- not just skillwise but also emotionally."

First year volleyball team members Yvonne Ramirez, Elise Sisson, and Stephanie Hobaugh believe the transition hasn't been an unpleasant one. "It's nice that there are no weak links on the team," Hobaugh said.

"Every girl is a stand-out because of a tougher selection process." Ramirez said, "We have much more grueling training here - involving weeks of conditioning with pool workouts, yoga, Pilates, and weight training - but it's worth it to be able to compete on the same level as the other Division 1 teams. The plus side is that we'll get to travel to places like North Dakota, South Dakota, and Michigan to compete."

Sisson offers a bit of advice on making the transition to a more competitive court: "You can't worry about competing against older girls. You step up your own game and just do it!"

Conglomerate presents: The life of a Centenary student athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

Photo from GoCentenary.com

As a student athlete, one comes into every situation as if it's a big game, one's time to shine. I find every year to be more exciting than the last, whether it's my new teammates, my classes, the tough schedule coach has set up for us, or the idea of being a NCAA Division 1 college athlete at the smallest Division 1 school in the nation.

I'm Allison McClain, a junior Communication major and a member of the Ladies softball team. I hail from a small town in the east part of Texas, so coming to Centenary was just right for me.

All summer long, we work to become better at our game. We try to improve on the last season, and we look for the positives that surround every moment of our lives—the lives of collegiate athletes.

Moving day came and past: Saturday, August 25. I unpacked my belongings (and by belongings, I mean my life, from a trailer that sits in our yard back home in Texas waiting for days like these.) Up and down the floors of my residence hall, 50 times and counting, I dropped the boxes, tubs, and personal mementos on the floor just to head back downstairs to do it all over again. Finally, after a 3-hour adventure, my new roommate and teammate and I settled in for a long night of organizing. 8:00 p.m. came and I had photos of family and friends surrounding me as I sat in my desk. I had Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox, overlooking me from the stark off-white walls. It's midnight and I finally lay down.

The first week of school for our softball team is all about team bonding. We work hard early to become better later. By Tuesday of the first week this year (August 28), we were well on our way...the week that no softball player ever forgets. It's called the 26-minute drill, but we call it death. Awake at 6 a.m., jogging around Jones Rice, then stretching, and then THE DRILL. By 7:15 a.m. we were done, and a countdown of the number of days left of the drill was the only thing any one of us was thinking. We completed it every morning...agilities galore. From lunges, sprints, the famous bear crawls and frog jumps, to infamous counting of our coach. For 26 minutes, we were second-guessing the idea of being a collegiate athlete, until Friday came and it was all over.

After 2 years of being a Centenary College athlete, waking up early to work out, studying late at night, trying to find time to sneak in a movie, I have become fully aware of this groovy lifestyle. The first week of classes seemed to stretch on forever until Labor Day came.

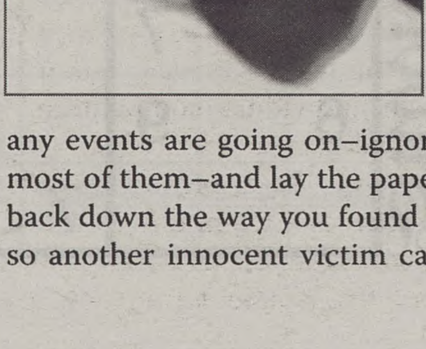
Monday, September 3 - most would call that Labor Day, but we, the Centenary softball team, called it our first day of team practice. A great day it was.

Week 2 started and my team has seen the beginning of a great season. Being a student athlete is harder than most people think; it's all about time management and working hard. I have found that without the support of teammates and coaches, professors and family, the life of a Centenary College athlete wouldn't be the same. Go Ladies & Gents!!

"I come to play everyday." --David Ortiz, Boston Red Sox

Jarboe Sports Jabber of the Week: Centenary sports writing stepping up a notch

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor



It's the same old, same old with the Conglomerate sports section every week, isn't it? You reach for a Conglomerate that you just happen to find lying around the vicinity of your reaching capacity, following the same motions you take every time you get your hands on one. First, skim over front page. Second, scout out the word "sex" in any article and then proceed to giggle. And finally, check to see if any events are going on–ignore most of them–and lay the paper back down the way you found it so another innocent victim can be sucked into the trap you fell into (huge gasp). Feel no more pain, Ladies and Gents, for a new era of sports writing is on its way that plans to blow your mind so far out of proportion that even the whiskers on your teeth will cry and beg for sweet, sweet mercy.

I know, I know, you're telling yourself right now, "Holy Cannoli! How can this guy be talking all this "jabber" when he doesn't even play a sport himself?" Well. I'll have you know that though my sports history is not long – I will not go into any detail whatsoever (I played baseball with Red Socks, basketball with the Scorpions and Sons of Thunder, and soccer with the Turtles and Bullets - all of these with Irving YMCA from '92 - '99) - it does not take away the love I have for the game. With a talented staff of young writers, we plan to give you a satisfying crunch of sports statistics, scores, around-the-globe coverage, local, player of the week, and humorous opinions of the many athletic activities that we eat, drink, and sleep everyday. The great John Madden once said, "A touchdown is when the ball crosses over the line." We have found that line, my friends. It's time to make a few touchdowns.

Baseball team helps raise money for kids with muscular dystrophy

Thomas Wartelle
Staff Writer

The Centenary Baseball team recently participated in the Jerry Lewis Telethon, an event that benefits "Jerry's Kids," brave young people stricken with muscular dystrophy. The event consists of a series of televised segments that offer viewers an opportunity to call the show and pledge their monetary support. The Gents squad manned the phones for two-hour long sessions at the Bass Pro Shop, led by head coach Ed McCann. Proceeds from the event go towards the purchase of equipment to make the lives of MD patients easier, to research for a cure, and to pay for trips to a special summer camp for MD-stricken children that provides them with the most important gift of all: escape from their disability and a sense of hope for the future. Even though the purpose of the baseball team was to assist in this worthy endeavor, they unwittingly found themselves to be beneficiaries of the event as well. Sophomore pitcher Peter Stark put it best when he said that "it was good to help out the community and at the same time have a little fun doing it."

Athlete of the Week: Soccer player reveals her love of sweet tea and corn dogs

Ryan Thacker
Staff Writer

Full Name: Michael Anne Wheeler
Nickname: Mikie
Classification: Junior
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Abilene, TX
Sport: Ladies Soccer
Position: Left/ Midfield

How old were you when you started playing? "Five, I think."

Why did you choose to come to Centenary? I didn't want sound corny, but Centenary has a beautiful campus. When I came to soccer camp as a junior in high school, I fell in love with the campus. Then I came my senior year and got to know the coaches and the girls that I would be playing with. Another reason that really has nothing to do with how pretty the school is or how GREAT the academics are is that it is far enough away from my parents that they can't be here every second, but close enough where they can visit.

What do you look forward to the most this season? The attitude of the team is amazing. They have so much energy before practices and games. The whole team has just become one. We don't really have cliques or anything. I look forward to winning.

What are your plans after graduation? If I decide not to go to grad school, I will probably just begin teaching. Hopefully back in Texas, but anywhere would be cool.

Who is your favorite pro athlete? I would have to say Michelle Akers, even though she's an older player. She fought every game as if it were her last even when she was hurting with illnesses. She depended on God for her strength and, to me, that is the most amazing thing.

What's something interesting that no one knows? I love Sonic. I think there are only a few people that know that. I love their sweet tea and corn dogs. I also like to go hunting, even though I can't really shoot a gun. I like to watch.

photo from GoCentenary.com

Men's Soccer

Fri, Sep 14
at Western Kentucky (1)
at Bowling Green, KY
7:00 PM

Sun, Sep 16
vs. Marshall (1)
at Bowling Green, KY
12:00 PM

Thu, Sep 20
at SMU
at Dallas, TX
7:30 PM

Women's Soccer

Fri, Sep 14
Northwestern State
Shreveport, LA
7:00 PM

Sun, Sep 16
Arkansas
Shreveport, LA
1:00 PM

Sudoku

4	6				3			
				4		6		9
1		3	5			7		
		1		3			5	7
3								6
7	8			5		3		
		7			6	2		8
6		9		2				
			7				6	1

Laughable laws remain on the books in Louisiana

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

Did you know that in Arkansas a man can legally beat his wife, but not more than once a month? How about California, where it is illegal to eat an orange in your bathtub? Forget the baths, however, in Indiana, between the months of October and March. All states have some pretty ridiculous laws in the books that no one really abides by. Louisiana is no exception to this. Here are a few of the ridiculous laws in Louisiana.

1. It is illegal to gargle in public places. This one I figured out several years ago when I was at a pizza place eating lunch with a cheer team I was on. I decided I wanted to gargle my drink just for fun. While I was doing this, a person who worked at the pizza place walked over and said, "You know that's illegal, don't you?" I was mortified in front of the entire team! I almost got arrested and carted off to jail for GARGLING IN PUBLIC! Now that is ridiculous.

2. It is illegal to rob a bank and then shoot at the bank teller with a water pistol. Hey, if you can't get your hands on a real gun, why not use a water gun? If it works to fool them to begin with, why not make the bank teller even more humiliated with a shot of water in the face as if to say, "Ha ha, fooled you! Now I have your money! Later sucka!"

3. It is illegal to have a goatee unless you first pay a special license fee for the privilege of wearing one in public. Why someone would want to have one of those to begin with is unknown to me. Either way, if you need a special permit to have one of those, it's not worth it. Seriously, no one looks good with them.

4. It is illegal to shoot lasers at police officers. I can understand where this one is coming from. Maybe if a local police officer is being targeted for assassination and you point a laser at them, they will think they are about to be shot. I get it, I understand. But I really don't think a local police officer would be shot at. Maybe a state or sheriff, but not local.

5. Every time a person is seriously burned, he must report the injury to the fire marshal. If I was seriously burned, the first thing on my mind would not be reporting it to the fire marshal. It would be, "AHH! Holy crap! I'm burning! I need to get to a hospital and stat!" Ok, so I wouldn't say "stat," but I would scream the other stuff.

6. Prisoners who hurt themselves could serve an additional two years in jail. Maybe they hurt themselves BECAUSE they are in jail. Giving them another two years is just dumb. They need to go to the psychiatric ward!

7. Rituals that involve the ingestion of blood, urine, or fecal matter are not allowed. Well, there goes my Saturday night. Ever been to Ellerbe Road School before? That's where all that kind of stuff goes down. So, if you're ever looking for an interesting night, head over there at about midnight or so and you will witness some pretty crazy happenings.

8. In Lafayette, LA, it is illegal to play a musical instrument for the purpose of attracting attention without a license. Well, the entire Lafayette High School band would be arrested for that one. I don't think they play just for kicks; they're kind of good last time I checked. And that really attracts attention to them.

9. In New Orleans, LA, it is illegal for a woman to drive a car unless her husband is waving a flag in front of it. I don't really understand this one. I'm picturing a NASCAR-type driving style. I can just see this middle-aged man standing in front of the car, waving a flag. Next thing you know, the wife hits the gas and runs him over. This could be a more destructive scenario than originally hoped for.

10. And last but not least, phone sex is not allowed. Well, that's going to be a tough egg to crack. I guess what they mean here is that it's okay to have sexual intercourse, but if you do it on the phone, you're a morally bad person and should be arrested. Keep in mind that these are laws by our government. The same government that gives us freedom of speech, religion, and so forth also tells us that it is illegal to tie an alligator to a fire hydrant. These oh-so-important laws need to be abided by... yeah, right. Like that's going to happen. So, next time you see me, don't feel bad telling about me about my future (that's illegal too), that time you stood on your handlebars, and when you stole those crawfish - because that is what our state government is cracking down on these days.

Sources: www.dumblaws.com, www.crazylaws.com, www.dumb.com/laws, www.idiotlaws.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO
SENIOR GOALKEEPER
ALI HILSHER
FOR SUMMIT LEAGUE
DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF
THE WEEK

The answer to Aleks Kasztalska's "Strange but True" news challenge
- story #3 is fake.

HOROSCOPES

INSPIRED BY ALANIS MORISSETTE

Aries (3/21- 4/19) "What it all boils down to is that no one's really got it figured out just yet."

Taurus (4/20- 5/20) "You are the bearer of unconditional things."

Gemini (5/21- 6/21) "I recommend getting your heart trampled on to anyone."

Cancer (6/22- 7/22) "Life has a funny way of helping you out when you think everything's gone wrong and everything blows up in your face"

Leo (7/23- 8/22) "How about unabashedly bawling your eyes out; how about not equating death with stopping."

Virgo (8/23- 9/22) "You scan the credits for your name, and wonder why it's not there"

Libra (9/23- 10/22) "I recommend sticking your foot in your mouth at any time."

Scorpio (10/23- 11/21) "Why are you so petrified of silence? Here, can you handle this?"

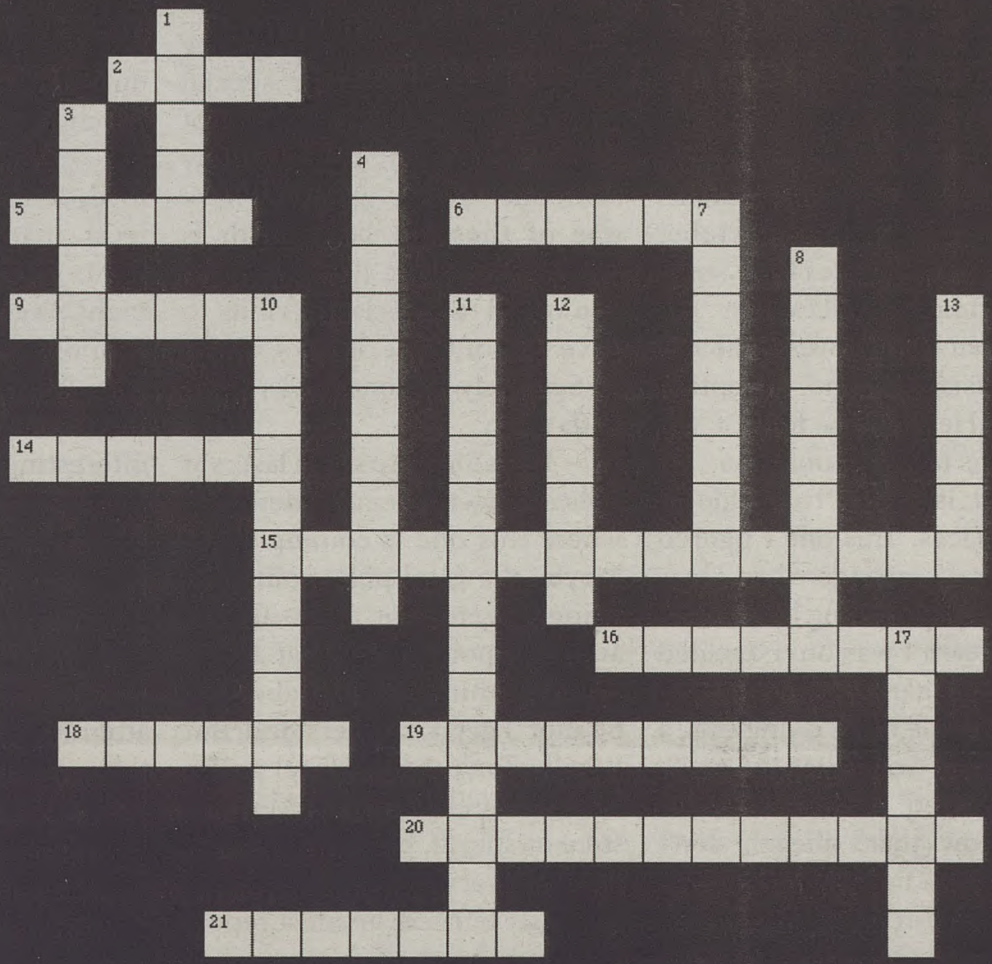
Sagittarius (11/22- 12/21) "I'm here to remind you of the mess you left when you went away."

Capricorn (12/22- 1/19) "What it all comes down to is that everything's gonna be quite alright."

Aquarius (1/20- 2/18) "I don't want to be responsible for your fractured heart and its wounded beat."

Pisces (2/19- 3/20) "Thank you, thank you silence."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: TV GUIDE



ACROSS

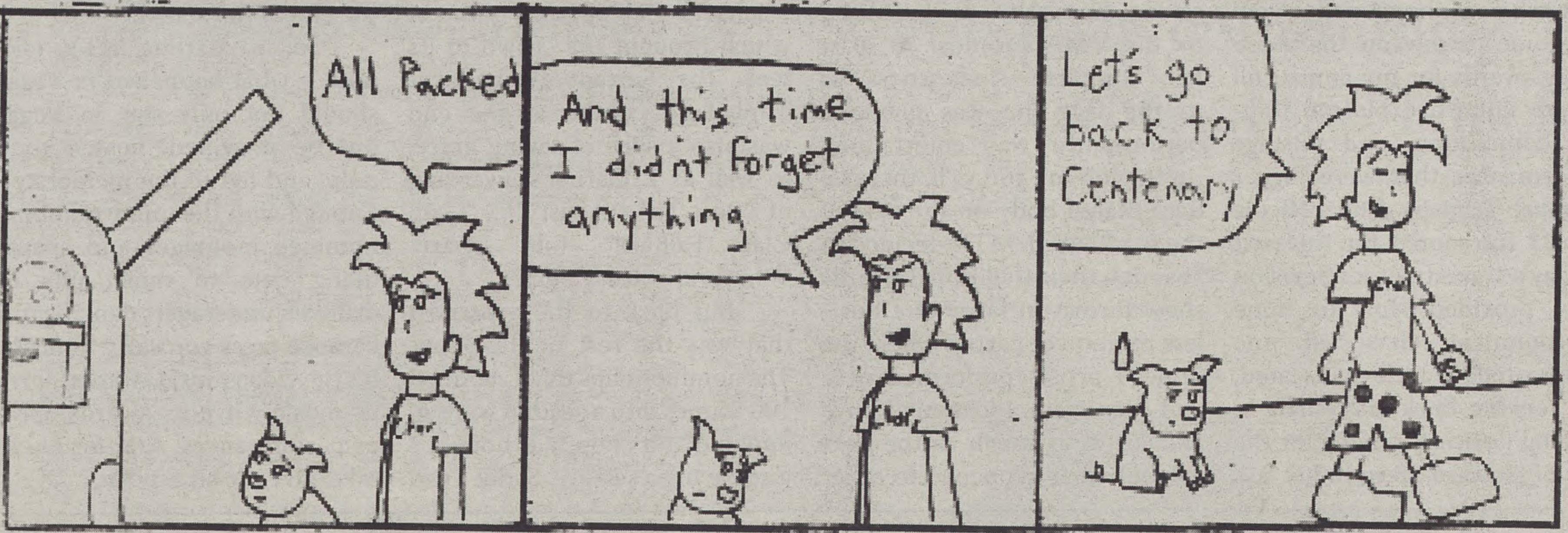
2. Show based around the aftermath of a plane crash on a mysterious island.
5. Marcia of Desperate Housewives
6. Show about sports reporter PJ and her male friends
9. T.R. Knight's character on Grey's Anatomy
14. New cop drama set in New Orleans
15. Grey's Anatomy spinoff
16. Patrick Dempsey's nickname on Grey's Anatomy
18. New AMC drama about an advertising company
19. Omar Epps' character on House
20. Setting of Desperate Housewives
21 Talk show hosted by five celebrity women

DOWN

1. Emily Deschanel and David Boreanaz's darkly comedic forensic investigation show.
3. Show about modern day super heroes
4 . Star of House
7. Kim Catrall's character on Sex and the City
8 . Kristen Davis' character on Sex and the City
10. Meredith on Grey's Anatomy
11. USA summer miniseries starring Debra Messing
12. Teri of Desperate Housewives
13. Sarah Jessica Parker's character on Sex and the City
17. Cynthia Nixon's character on Sex and the City

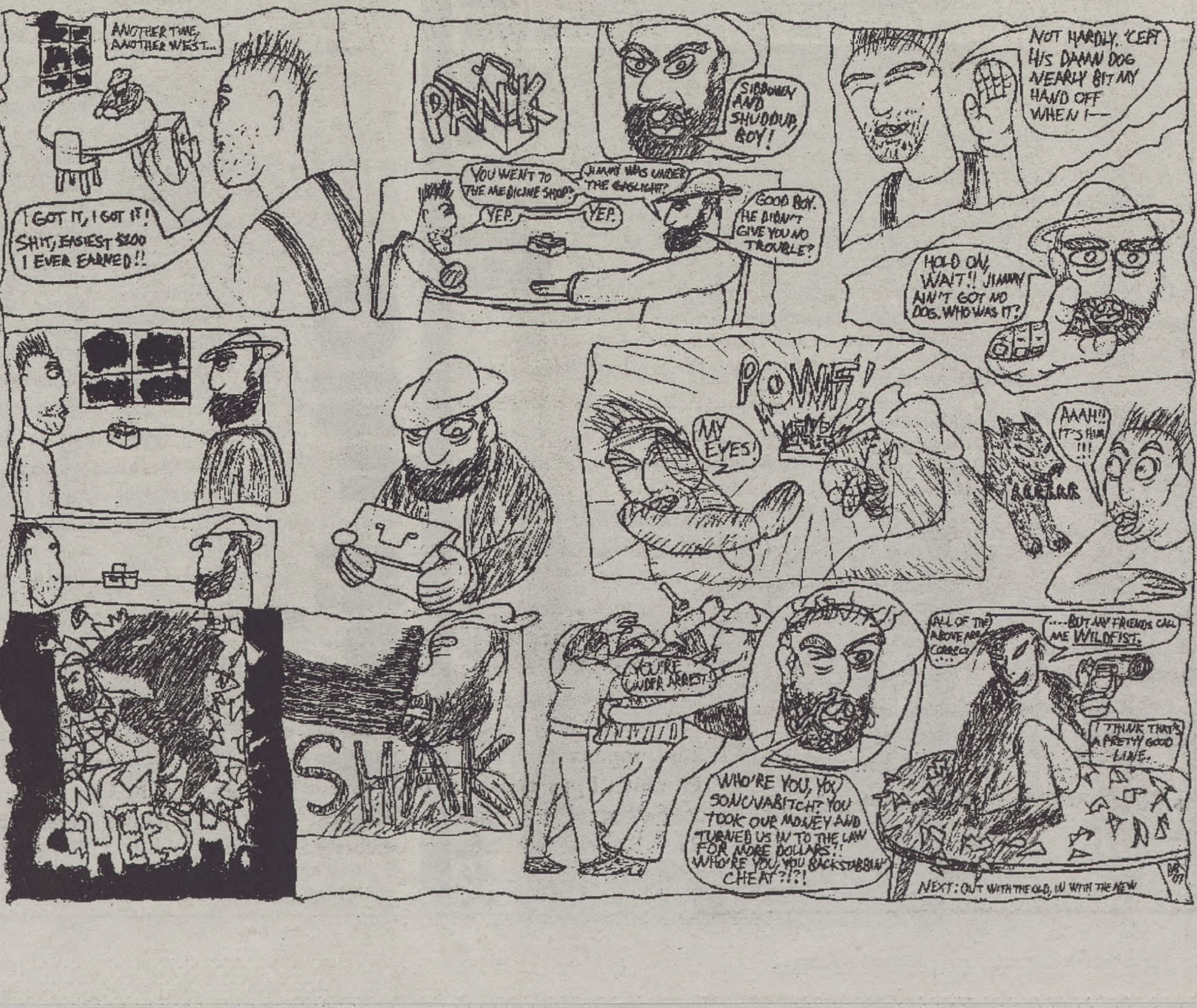
A Day with Christ

by Chris Christ


All Packed
And this time I didn't forget anything
Let's go back to Centenary

Wildfist

By John Bonner


ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER WEST...
I GOT IT, I GOT IT! SHIT, EASIEST $200 I EVER EARNED!!
PANK
SIDDOWN AND SHUDDUP, BOY!
NOT HARDLY. 'CEPT HIS DAMN DOG NEARLY BIT MY HAND OFF WHEN I—
YOU WENT TO THE MEDICINE SHOP?
JIMMY WAS UNDER THE GASLIGHT?
YEP.
YEP.
GOOD BOY. HE DIDN'T GIVE YOU NO TROUBLE?
HOLD ON, WAIT!! JIMMY AIN'T GOT NO DOG. WHO WAS IT?
POWF!
MY EYES!
AAAH!! IT'S HIM!!!
RRRRR
CHESH!
SHAK
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE CORRECT....
....BUT MY FRIENDS CALL ME WILDFIST.
I THINK THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD LINE.
WHO'RE YOU, YOU SONUVABITCH? YOU TOOK OUR MONEY AND TURNED US IN TO THE LAW FOR MORE DOLLARS?! WHO'RE YOU, YOU BACKSTABBIN' CHEAT?!?!
JB '07
NEXT: OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

Community member writes open letter to MTV: possibly the worst VMAs ever

Jaya "Sharpay" Sharma
Guest Contributor
jsharm@lsuhsc.edu

To all the Video Music Awards I've loved before: what in Britney's name happened to you! I've come to rely on the video music awards for my annual fill of pop culture explosion, hip-hop commotion, and onstage performances that were bigger than pre-Trimspa Anna Nicole (What? Too soon?). But this past Sunday's travesty of a television show provided slim to none entertainment that left me exasperated, a little nauseated, and rocking back and forth in the fetal position longing for the days of Howard Stern in his "ass man" get-up.

Oh yes. They were that bad.

Nevermind that the coochie-flashing Miss Spears' performance fell short of saving humanity as promised by the VMA promos. At least her complete cluelessness as to the fact she was giving a performance was entertaining (in the "oh my god ya'll, there's a decapitated body on the side of the road!" way). MTV decided to abandon their traditional awards show format in favor of a host-less rotation of parties where the same 4 artists performed over and over again. I love my Kanye and Justin as much as the next gal, but what happened to other gajillion performers in the music world?

Worth mentioning are Chris Brown's insane dancing skills and Alicia Keys' revival of George Michael's "Freedom," both of which brought the crowd to its feet. The Furtado/Timberlake/Timbaland combo at the end was also a slice of saving grace, as well as J. Garner's awarding of "Best New Artist" to "Gym Class…Fallout!" (oh J.Garn. What will you say next?)

But back to the grossness that was the rest of the show. The nominee clips that crammed 100 frames into a second were so jumbled and choppy I thought I was having a seizure. Sadly, I can only surmise that running visual bites at an incomprehensible speed is MTV's idea of the cutting edge (as in the knives I wanted to slit my wrists with at the end of the show).

So, my darling MTV, take note – what happened in Vegas should not only stay in Vegas but be poisoned, beaten to a pulp, and fed to the incinerator. Enough with the mind-numbing nominee montages and space-filling cuts to mosh pits of drunken underagers dancing to a karaoke mess you call a concert. It's the video music awards – give us music. Give us awards. Give us performances! And for God's sake, give me an aspirin.

Austin City Limits

September 14th-16th

Friday

BMI
Sahara Smith
Adam Hood
Amy Lavere
John Ralston
Louis XIV

WaMu
Loretta Williams Gurnell
The Gospel Silvertones
The Wonderful Harmonizers
The Dynamites feat. Charles Walker
Big Sam's Funky Nation
Andy Palacio and the Garifuna Collective
The Mighty Clouds of Joy

Austin Ventures
Greyhounds
Kevin McKinney
Del McCoury Band
Will Hoge
Manchester Orchestra
JJ Grey & Mofo
James Hunter
Reverend Horton Heat

AT&T Blue Room
One Mississippi
Heartless Bastards
Blonde Redhead
LCD Soundsystem
Kaiser Chiefs

Dell
Sound & the Jury Contest Winner
Joseph Arthur & The Lonely Astronauts
Peter Bjorn and John
M.I.A.
Gotan Project

AMD
Asleep At the Wheel
Bela Fleck & the Fleckstones
Crowded House
Queens of the Stone Age
The Killers

AT&T
Jesse Malin
Pete Yorn
Joss Stone
Spoon
Bjork

Saturday

BMI
The Steps
Mario Matteoli
Cary Ann Hearst & the Gun Street Girls
Trent Summar & the New Row Mob
Jeffrey Steele

WaMu
The New Soul Invaders
Sylvia St. James
The Legendary Soul Stirrers
Railroad Earth
Ocote Soul Sounds
Beau Soliel
Atercipelados

Austin Ventures
The Ike Reily Assasination
Young Love
Back Door Slam
Sara Hickman
St. Vincent
Butch Walker and the Let's Go Out Tonites
Kelly Willis
Cross Canadian Ragweed

AT&T Blue Room
Kevin Devine
Dax Rings
Cold War Kids
Andrew Bird
Clap Your Hands Say Yeah

Dell
Willy Mason
Raul Malo
Steve Earle
Zap Mama
Indigo Girls

AMD
Sound Team
Paolo Nutini
Blue October
Arctic Monkey
Arcade Fire

AT&T
Dr. Dog
Augustana
Stephen Marley
Damien Rice
Muse
Charlie Musselwhite
Preservation Hall Jazz Band
Ziggy Marley

Austin Ventures
Amy Cook
Fionn Regan
The Broken West
Ian Ball
Midlake
Rose Hill Drive
Billy Joe Shaver
Eli Young Band

AT&T Blue Room
Nicole Atkins & the Sea
The National
DeVotchKa
Regina Spektor
Ghostland Observatory

Dell
The Little Ones
Sound Tribe Sector Nine
Common
Amos Lee
The Decemberists

Sunday

BMI
Jennifer Nicely
Brandon Rhyder
Kara Grainger
Patterson Hood
Guy Forsyth

WaMu
Shields of Faith
The Jones Family Singers
Grace Potter the Nocturnals

AMD
Yo La Tengo
Robert Earl Keen
Lucinda Williams
Wilco

AT&T
Ryan Shaw
Ben Kweller
Bloc Party
My Morning Jacket
Bob Dylan and His Band

The CONGLOMERATE

September 21, 2007 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 4

What's Happening: Jena 6 Protest

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

A busload of Centenary faculty and students travelled down to Jena yesterday morning to participate in the massive rally in support of the civil rights of the "Jena Six."

Dr. Loren Demerath, Sociology Professor, originally pitched the idea of attending the protest to his Race & Ethnicity class because of the relevance of the issue. Once interested students heard of the plan, however, activist members of Centenary student organizations like Side-by-Side, the College Democrats, and Amnesty International joined in.

The protest was held yesterday because September 20th was to be the date of the sentencing of Mychal Bell, one of the six black students from Jena High School initially charged with attempted second degree murder for assaulting white student Justin Barker. Civil rights advocates and Jena residents alike have said the brawl, which took place in December 2006, was just one in a series of race-related incidents sparked by white students hanging three nooses from a tree that black students sat under one day in September.

Most recently, a U.S. attorney general investigating the case stated that there is no link between the noose incident and the attack on Barker. Still, tens of thousands of people from around the nation gathered in the sleepy town of Jena (population: 3,000) yesterday to make their voices heard in this ongoing national debate.

Attaway Fellow Mathew Schwarzman supports construction of a Spirit House in the Highland area

THE HIGHLAND
H
spirit house
PROJECT

Tia Landrum
Staff Writer

As explained by Professor Leia Lewis of Meadows Museum of Art, the San Kofa bird is a legend in West Africa. Whenever the bird moves forward, it always takes the time to look back. This symbol of remembrance and heritage is only one of many significant images in John Scott's artistic structure "Spirit House."

Inspired by the ideas of community schoolchildren in New Orleans, Scott developed a house-sized art piece and placed it in its native gallery of the New Orleans community. A structure that still stands today despite Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, John Scott's "Spirit House" is a representation of the community in which it was built.

A model of the structure is part of the Meadows Museum's "Works by John Scott" exhibit, and serves as a sign of things to come for the museum itself.

When the museum's art director, Diane Dufilho, chose to exhibit "City of Hope," a series of pieces from the Historic New Orleans Collection showing the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and "Works by John Scott," a companion exhibit inspired by New Orleans, the many levels of community were apparent to Dufilho and Lewis.

"What we saw was this opportunity to explore the theme of community," said Lewis. "Community when it is functional, when it is in times of celebration, and community when it is in a time of tragedy."

Just like the San Kofa bird, Lewis and Dufilho hope the exhibits keep a sense of the past fresh in the community by keeping the tragedy of the past hurricanes in mind during daily life.

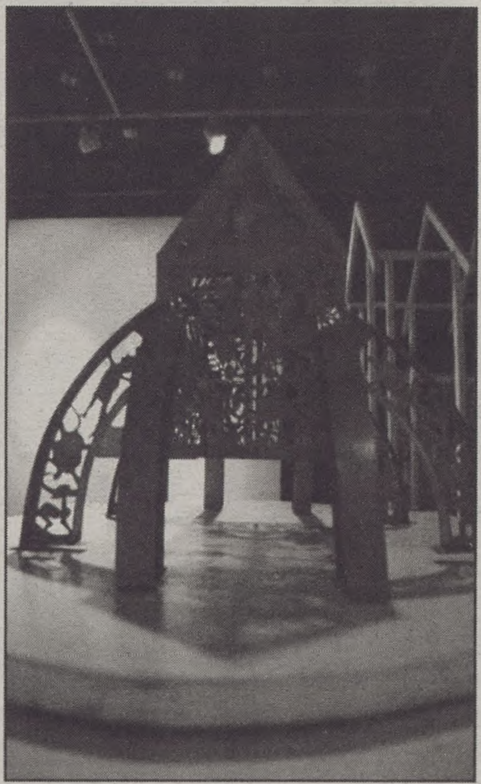
"It takes the threat of loss to find what matters most to you," said Dufilho.

Inspired by John Scott's "Spirit House," Lewis developed and now teaches Art 295, or Introduction to Community-Based Arts. The class, offered at Centenary this semester only, teaches the history of community-based arts, methods of going into the community to collaborate with members of the community, and use of a very specific method of interviewing called the "story circle" in hopes of developing a "Spirit House" for Shreveport's Highland community.

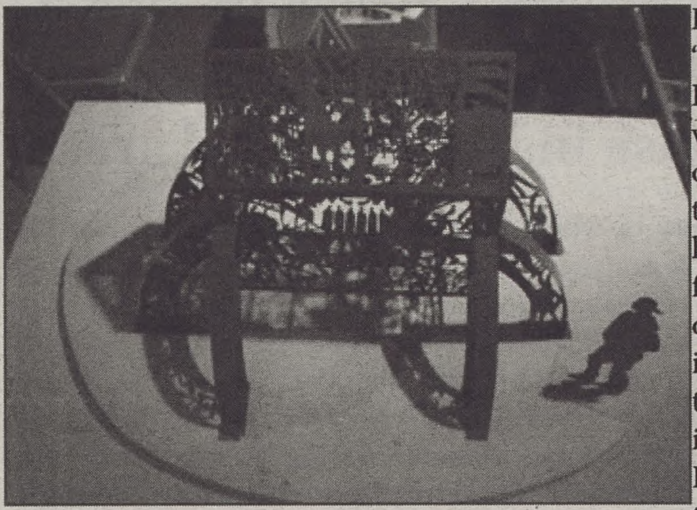
"This semester is just to take the Spirit House to a design stage," said Lewis. "But the museum's hope is that within the next two to three years with fundraising and continued community support, the design will be executed as a full-scale work of art to be placed in Highland. I am very honored to share it with the students."

continued on page 2

photos by Emily DeLatin



"Spirit House" project designed to build sense of community and art appreciation, continued from the front page



Using a very specific open-forum process used by John Scott in his development of "Spirit House" called the "Spirit Circle," Lewis's students will have the opportunity to hear first-hand accounts from all walks of life. Placing invitations for the public forum in various places, Lewis hopes the process will reveal the diversity available for the project.

"What we have discovered in our research is that the Highland neighborhood is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the city," said Lewis.

According to Lewis and Dufilho, "phase two" of the project will hopefully be a grant-writing course to educate students in art-based fields on writing grants for artistic funding. The course would offer the next step in taking the design to a construction stage, as funding and community support will be necessary for the structure to materialize.

With the support of Dr. Mathew Schwarzman and other community partners, the project has been conceived, but further support has been sought through informative convocations on Centenary's campus. A "Story Circle" for the project will be facilitated by Dr. Schwarzman on Friday, Sept. 21 at the museum from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

"It's about what happens to people when they come together to share," said Dufilho. "This is our biggest community push. This is a really good thing."

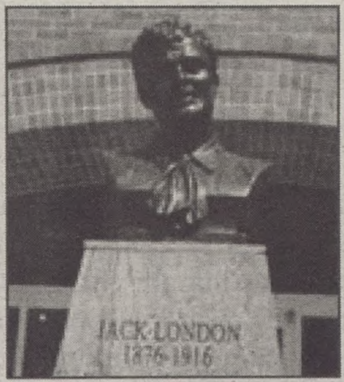
photo by Emily DeLatin

Question of the Week

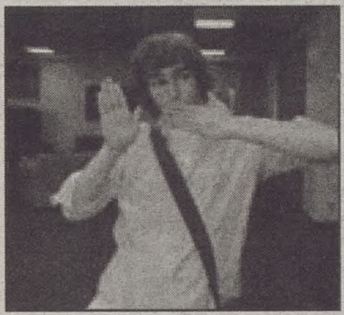
WHAT'S YOUR CATCHPHRASE?

"Did you wash your hands?"
- Allison Cormier, Junior

"Are you serious?"
- Betsy Smith, Junior



"I love Earle Labor."
- Jack London, author



"I like fishes 'cause they're so delicious."
- Jon Schleuss, Sophomore

"I'm here. What are your other two wishes?" -Molly Broderick, Junior

"Do tha damn thing!"- Ricquel Crockrom, Senior

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FEATURES

Facilities and Residence Life plan more projects to improve Centenary's campus

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

The campus changes that occurred over the summer weren't the only improvements planned for this year. Although the Facilities and Residence Life offices don't have any huge projects coming up soon, their plans for the rest of the school year are more than worth mentioning.

One of Residence Life's goals for this spring is to update the lounges in Cline and possibly in Rotary; this is similar to what has been recently done in Sexton and Hardin.

Also, remember the rocking chairs on the porch in front of James? They're coming back and, according to Assistant Dean of Students Kevin Wagner, "they will be out in a couple of weeks." They will have to be chained, which hopefully will ensure that they last longer than the previous ones, which were stolen.

Moreover, one of the things on Director of Facilities Brian Baker's agenda this year is to finalize the energy savings program on campus. The new system will eventually allow the director to respond to the students' requests to, say, change the temperature in their rooms from the comfort of the director's own home computer.

Mr. Baker would also like to finish replacing all the lighting on campus, so that every lamp pole resembles the elegant black ones in the arboretum. This is an expensive venture, though, and might take a while – especially after the big and costly power surge that took place over the summer.

On another note, Mrs. Sheila Wiggins, Grounds Supervisor, points out that the area around Brown Chapel will be redone, with a memorial marker and a bench placed close by. Other landscaping projects include taking down the gravel and removing the poison ivy plants from the area behind Hardin and James.

One of Residence Life's long-term projects is equipping the residence halls with flat-screen TVs, so that eventually every dorm lounge has one. After getting a new TV for Cline last summer, Mr. Wagner wants to install two more this semester, and more in the future.

It is also in the long-term agenda to have all the furniture in Cline replaced, as well as to get motion sensors installed in Cline bathrooms to conserve energy.

Additionally, there is talk of setting up wireless internet in all the residence halls, but it might take a few more years. What will hopefully take less time is making sure that all dorm rooms on campus have window screens, which is another of Residence Life's objectives.

All these changes are "kind of an outcome from hearing from students," says Mr. Wagner. His goal is to "update" and "make our facilities better." Since, as he rightly points out, attending our school is not a cheap business, he wants to "turn that back into a good quality product."

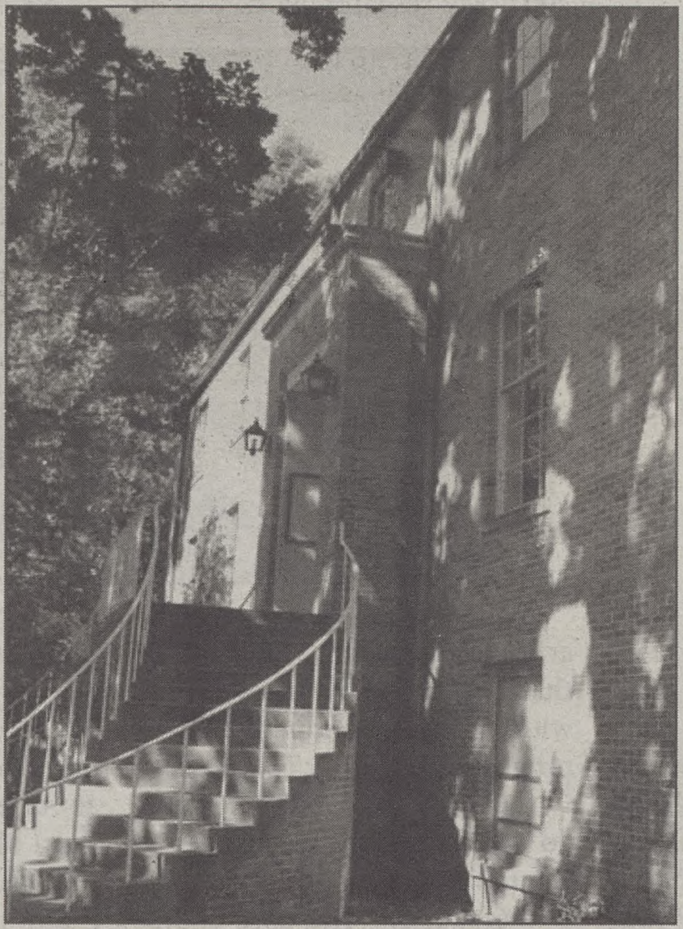

photo by Emily DeLatin

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The Conglomerate
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Centenary welcomes new professors to Mathematics and Computer Science

DR. CHRIS BRANDT

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Conglomerate: Can you briefly introduce yourself to our readers?

Brandt: My name is Chris Brandt. It is my first year here and I am currently finishing my PhD at Louisiana Tech. Before that, I was at Stephen F. Austin getting my Bachelors and Masters.

Congo: What subjects do you currently teach?

Brandt: I teach pre-calculus, business calculus, and math & engineering.

Congo: Why did you choose Centenary College?

Brandt: Partly because of the location. It was a small liberal arts college. My wife is currently going to school at Louisiana Tech and the proximity was a big factor.

Congo: What is your impression of Centenary so far?

Brandt: I like it a whole lot. Everybody seems to be really friendly. The small class sizes are great. Overall, it has been great so far.

Congo: What will be your biggest challenge while teaching here?

Brandt: I think it will be learning all of the policies and procedures. A lot of them are a lot different than at the two colleges that I have been at before, mostly because they are a lot larger - around 11,000 students. So the policies and procedures are a lot different and that will probably be my biggest challenge.

Congo: What was your college experience like as a student?

Brandt: It was good. As a math major, I had to work very hard. It was good, obviously, because I didn't mind it too much. I wouldn't be teaching if I did. So I had to like it a little bit.

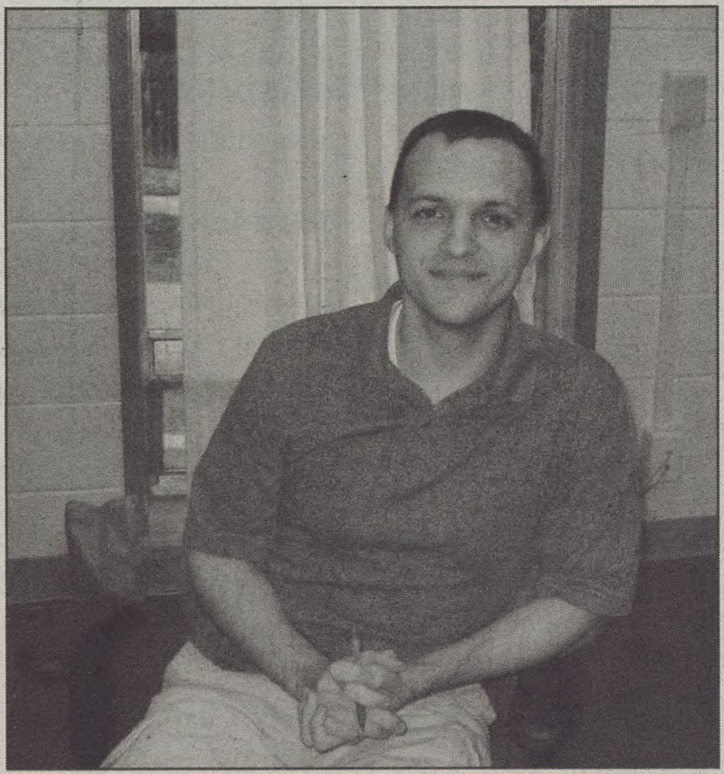

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photo by Mindy McKoin

DR. MARK GOADRICH

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Conglomerate: Can you briefly introduce yourself to our readers?

Goadrich: My name is Mark Goadrich, and I got my undergraduate degree from Kenyon College in Ohio in Mathematics and Philosophy. After that, I went to graduate school in Computer Science at University of Wisconsin and graduated with a Ph.D. there in 2007. My research work was on artificial intelligence, and within that, machine learning, and within that, conductive logic programming.

Congo: What subjects do you currently teach here at Centenary?

Goadrich: The core course I'm teaching is College Algebra. I am also teaching Intro to Computer Science using Python programming and the upper level class of operating systems and networking.

Congo: Why did you choose Centenary?

Goadrich: It was mainly the people that I met during my interview process. When I came, I felt like it was a great community. The faculty made me feel really at home when I was interviewing and the opportunity that was present here for the position that they had open was a match for what I wanted to do. The position I'm in is Computational Mathematics. It's sort of a hybrid between Computer Science and Mathematics. So, the people I met, the students I met, they really said that this is the place where I can do what I want to do and be with people who are doing what they want to do.

Congo: What is your impression of Centenary so far?

Goadrich: I like it. It is really, really muggy. We moved here in July and it rained just about everyday for two weeks. But I like the students and I like that the people in the classes I am teaching are awake and aware of what they want to do and are really inquisitive. I am really impressed by them.

Congo: What will be your biggest challenge teaching here?

Goadrich: One of the biggest challenges will be to get more people into Computer Science.

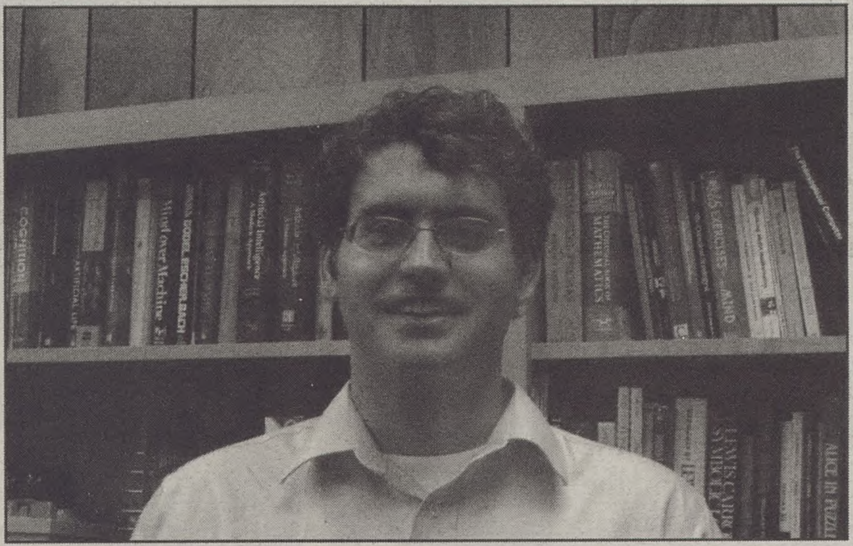

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photo by Mindy McKoin

Centenary's 410 Bridge chapter plans to raise money to help solve the water crisis in Africa

Sara Carpenter
Staff Writer

Two freshmen, Christine Cumming and Emily Mwakitawa, are establishing a new organization on campus, Centenary 410 Bridge, to raise money to build wells in Africa.

Centenary 410 Bridge would be an extension of a national organization.

410 Bridge is an organization that provides mission opportunities for communities. Though the organization wishes to branch out, its primary focus is Kenya.

Lanny Donoho, who founded BigStuf camps, came up with the idea for the organization on a trip to Africa. He witnessed the need there and decided to do something about it. He shared his ideas and organizations came forward and helped to build 410 Bridge.

410 Bridge's website, www.410Bridge.org, says "We share a heart for the nation of Kenya and a passion to build lasting relationships with the people we encounter there in an effort to help spur them on to change." Christine and Emily are bringing this idea to Centenary's campus.

Christine heard of the organization through her church, which got involved with H2O4K. She also went to the BigStuf youth camp. She and Emily met at a religious life meeting and hit it off.

When asked why they were so passionate about this project, Christine said, "'Whatever you have done to the least of these, you have done to me - Matthew 25:40.' That's how I feel about it. We're furthering God's kingdom and reaching out to the helpless. At the same time, we're not only witnessing to them, but to the people on campus."

410 Bridge and BigStuf Camp recently partnered to create H2O4K. It's a project to raise money for water relief in Kenya. It has been estimated that it will take $1.3 million to solve the water crisis. Centenary 410 Bridge is getting involved in this project.

The organization will be selling water bottles, provided at no cost by the national organization, at sports events. All the money goes directly to help with the water crisis in Kenya.

Emily has seen the poverty in Kenya. "Because I'm from Kenya, this is very close to my heart. I've become very passionate. I've seen the suffering. This is our chance to make a difference and it's something as small as clean water. They don't even have the option of Coke or Pepsi."

Christine and Emily are already working on putting on a concert at the end of the year to raise additional funds for this project. If you would like to help, please contact Christine, ccumming@centenary.edu, or Emily, emwakita@centenary.edu. Ice chests are needed to hold the water bottles, as well as volunteers to make posters. Any other help would be greatly appreciated.

Interview with Dr. Chris Brandt, cont. from page 4

Congo: What are your hobbies outside of the classroom?

Brandt: Sports is probably my biggest hobby. Watch it, play it.

Congo: Any sports in particular?

Brandt: I like to watch college football, mostly. Exercising and working out are also my hobbies. I also love to ski.

Congo: What are your pet peeves in the classroom?

Brandt: People saying that they are no good at math. Because most of the time, it's not true. They just don't try hard enough. General complaining. That is a pet peeve.

Congo: Do you know any good math jokes?

Brandt: Okay, but you almost have to be a mathematician to get it. Anyway, there are these three guys. One's a physicist, one's an engineer and one is a mathematician. And they are staying at a hotel. Hotel catches on fire on their floor. Physicist wakes up, sees the fire and the fire extinguisher and calculates the angle and trajectory and how much he needs to put out the fire. Then he goes back to bed. The engineer wakes up, sees the fire, and does the same sort of thing. Does a lot of calculations and sees what needs to be done. Then he goes back to bed. The mathematician wakes up, looks at the fire, sees the fire extinguisher, and says, "a solution exists." Then he goes back to bed.

This is because, in mathematics, a lot of times simply determining that a solution exists is important.

Interview with Dr. Mark Goadrich, cont. from page 4

It is a small minor that is part of the mathematics department right now, and one of my challenges is going to be broadening that and to get more people in other divisions taking Computer Science courses. I'm going to try and revise some of the curriculum to try and make Computer Science a part of the core mathematics courses. My proposal would make the Computer Science count for a mathematics core class and provide the opportunity to show that Computer Science can help you out, no matter what your field is.

Congo: What are your hobbies?

Goadrich: Right now, not much, because there is a lot of teaching and preparation, especially for a first year teacher. But I like to play board games and I like to cook and do some gardening and watch some Netflix.

Congo: What are your pet peeves, especially in classes?

Goadrich: Not much. Sleeping in class would be something to watch out for. You want to come to class, and it is really great that you are there, but [if you're sleepy] it would be a good idea to stay in bed, because you aren't getting anything done.

Congo: Any advice for anyone taking your classes?

Goadrich: Be prepared to think and ask questions, because I am going to be asking questions. It's a very interactive class and just be ready, because you are going to be exploring something new.

Sex and the Centenary: new vaccine protects women from the four worst types of the most common STD

Southern Elle
Staff Writer

Gynecologists are hailing it as the best innovation in women's health since the birth control pill. Conservatives are claiming it will cause you to be more promiscuous. The Republican Texas governor has already gotten into political trouble for making it mandatory – though several other states have followed suit. It's the newest controversy in sexual health – and it's the first vaccine that could help prevent a form of cancer.

Gardisil, a new vaccine, came on the market summer 2006 at the whopping price of $360. As Centenary's sexual health guru, it's my job to let you know whether it's okay to skip out on this vaccine or if you need to start skimping cash on books – or gas, groceries, partying supplies, and all the other necessities of college life. Let's start with some facts:

- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common STD – as many as 80% of women will contract at least one of the eleven forms of HPV by they time they are 50 years old. But the virus is one of the few truly "sexist" viruses out there; though men (and women) can be carriers for HPV, only women can be infected. Since there isn't a way to test men for the virus yet, heterosexual women can't know if their partners are carriers or not.

- HPV often shows no symptoms and can go into remission, where it can remain undetected for years.

- The good news is that most (70%) of HPV infections disappear on their own – though doctors aren't sure why.

- The BAD news? Some forms of HPV cause cervical cancer and genital warts. There is no treatment for any form of HPV.

So how do you protect yourself from the nastiness that is HPV? That's where Gardisil comes into play. The three-part vaccine protects women from the four worst types of HPV – which, combined, are the cause of 70% of cervical cancer cases and 90% of HPV genital warts cases in the U.S.

You heard me. For $360, you could prevent the chance of getting cervical cancer. That price isn't sounding so high now, is it?

But why take it now? As college students, most of us don't have the kind of budget to afford a $360 vaccine. The problem is, like with all vaccines, Gardisil does not cure HPV – it can only prevent it. For this reason, the vaccine is only recommended for women ages 9-26. Sexually active older women are so likely to have HPV already, there's no proof the vaccine will work for them. For most of us in college, that means it's imperative to get the vaccine NOW – not wait a few more years.

What are the risks? The possible side effects include "pain, swelling, itching, and redness at the injection site, fever, nausea, and dizziness" (www.gardisil.com). Like all vaccines, there's always the chance that the vaccine won't work or that it will have long-term side effects which scientists haven't discovered yet. But, unfortunately, our generation is playing against a time clock – when you are already sexually active or about to become sexually active, you don't have a lot of time to lose. It's up to you whether you think the risks or the rewards weigh out medically.

As for the political controversy surrounding the vaccine – well, what did you expect from a vaccine that could prevent an STD? A few right-wing Christian groups believe distributing this vaccine to young women will cause them to become more promiscuous – because apparently, women were too scared of HPV to have had sex before the vaccine. Tony Perkins, president of the socially conservative Family Research Counsel, won't inoculate his own daughter because he believes she might be more inclined to have sex outside of marriage. He isn't too worried her husband might transmit it to her. The logic makes no sense. We don't have vaccines for other STDs – like HIV/AIDS, Chlamydia, and herpes. Wouldn't women still worry about avoiding these STDs? What about men, who aren't affected by HPV – do they not worry about STDs? Why would we deny young girls a future without cervical cancer in order to pin health issues as ways to force individuals to only have "proper sexual behavior"? What about women who choose not to marry – or lesbians? Do they not get the vaccine because they deserve cervical cancer due to "improper sexual behavior"? The questions go on and on. The point is: screw conservatives and liberals. Scientists have found a vaccine for a form of CANCER. We should be celebrating.

Anyways, off of my soap box. If you have more questions about Gardisil and your sexual health, be sure to talk to your gynecologist – they will know the most about the vaccine. A few states are making it mandatory or covering the cost, though Louisiana isn't one of them. If you're an out-of-state student, check your state laws or ask your gynecologist if you can get the vaccine for free or at a reduced rate. Most insurance companies also cover part or all of the cost. But some insurance companies don't cover "preventative" medicine, like vaccines and birth control, so you might want to check your plan.

You can also protect yourself from getting HPV by using condoms or abstaining from sex. Even if you have been vaccinated (or even if you practice very safe sex), you should still get an annual PAP smear from your gynecologist just to check for cervical cancer or other problems – no sexually active woman is 100% protected.

For more information, check out www.plannedparenthood.org and www.gardisil.com. If you want the government's low-down on Gardisil, check www.cdc.gov/std/HPV/STDFact-HPV-vaccine.htm.

Ideas? Suggestions? Random comments? Hate mail? Please send your thoughts to paper@centenary.edu or centenarysex@yahoo.com. We welcome all responses.

The college welcomes non-traditional students to the campus and classes

Taylor Gruner
Staff Writer

Name: Sandy Roach
Age: 48
Major: Religious Studies

Why did you decide to come to Centenary?

"I wanted a Religious Studies major with a minor in Pre-Law. Centenary was the best choice. It was like my computer decided for me; every time I would search for colleges, Centenary was at the top of the list. It was close to home, and I would always drive by the campus. I saw how beautiful it was, and I would pray that I could come here.

How do you feel about being a "non-traditional" student?

"I've always been "the odd man out," so it doesn't feel very different."

Other colleges attended:

LA Tech, BPCC, and some colleges in California. "I never finished because I just wasn't ready."

Is there anything else you would like for us to know?

"If it wasn't for my daughter supporting me to go back to school, I would not be here. We have decided to make it a family tradition to come to and graduate from Centenary."

Sandy Roach is one of the college's non-traditional students, working hard to graduate for her family. Photo by Taylor Gruner.

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Centenary College's

Marjorie Lyons Playhouse

presents

Eric Overmeyer's

On the Verge

or the Geography of Yearning

Directed by

Emily Heugatter-Mathias

Featuring

Kalah Roberts

Rachael Magill

Savannah Baggerly

Scott Gibbs

September 27th thru October 6th

Call the Box Office at (318) 869-5242

for more information and ticket reservations

Russia rewards reproduction and other strange but true tales

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

The voices in my head have told me that you all enjoyed last week's weird news column. That made me very happy. It also made my Editor-in-Chief very happy, which in turn made me less happy, as you will see.

So, I have no choice but to again give you the latest scoop of the most bizarre occurrences from around the world. Seriously though, I have NO choice – Versha had my closest family kidnapped at gunpoint, and won't release them until I write the article.

Once again, I present thee with four snippets, one of which is blatantly untrue.

Whether you guess which one's a fake really makes no difference to me. I just want my family back, and then I'm calling the FBI.

1) What do the US Army, healthcare, and lingerie companies have in common? Breasts. (I wanted to leave my article at that, but my superego beat my id and ego up to a pulp.)

Here's the deal: Dr. Joanna Scurr from the University of Portsmouth is researching ways to enhance women's sports bras. She had some help from the aforementioned institutions because it turns out that this is a really complicated issue.

During strenuous, but also moderate, exercise, women's bras just do a lousy job of keeping in place what they're supposed to keep in place.

Thus, Dr. Scurr is trying to develop an "intelligent" material that would prevent breasts from such dislocation – which has been scientifically studied and can be pretty painful. The only thing more amazing than this new research is that I didn't even once use the word "bouncing" in this whole snippet.

2) Did people ever berate you for biting your fingernails? If you ever were a teenager, the answer is "yes."

Well, next time someone disgustedly points out your nasty habit, you can act offended and let them know that fingernail-biting is a real medical handicap.

At least, according to the Dutchman Alain-Raymond van Abbe.

Van Abbe has just opened a clinic for people who bite their fingernails, which he believes is a stress-related condition affecting two million people in Holland and at least 600 million people worldwide.

So, if you think your fingernails are worth the price of a transatlantic plane ticket and the 500 euros for a four-week long therapy session at the clinic, Holland should be your next vacation destination...

Unless long flights and foreign countries stress you out and make you eat your fingers to the bone.

3) If everything went as planned, September 12 was a very busy day for couples from a certain Russian region.

Sergei Morozov, the governor of Ulyanovsk, proclaimed September 12 the "Family Communication Day." However, "Communication" in this particular sense has little to do with talking and a lot more to do with doing.

If you're not getting the allusion, September 12 is exactly nine months before the Russian Constitution Day. Still nothing?

OK, what about the fact that Russian birth rates have been decreasing in the recent years and that having children on Constitution Day is, like, totally patriotic?

Yeah, I know - it probably didn't sound that great to the Russian couples, either. That's why every lucky couple whose joint efforts produce an heir on the national holiday will be rewarded with money, TVs and even cars.

Personally, I think the most practical gift for both of the new parents would be a free full-month stay at the fingernail-biting clinic.

4) Alright, so you go to a McDonald's and the hamburger you've ordered makes you sick. Nothing new, right?

Well, not to a certain cop from Georgia. He had actually expected his hamburger to taste good and now he's suing a poor McDonald's employee for what clearly is his faulty logic.

Kendra Bull, the 20-year-old in question who spent a night in jail and was released on $1,000 bail, is to stand in front of a judge for serving salty hamburgers. Even though she told her superiors about the incident and her co-workers helped her remove the excess salt, the police officer had her interrogated, and had the hamburger sample sent to a crime lab.

I really don't understand what the fuss is about. It always surprises me when people freak out at finding a long, greasy hair in their Wendy's salad, or a severed chicken head in their KFC bucket.

If you ask me, they're just too stressed and could probably use a nice, four-week-long therapy session at the fingernail-biting clinic.

Find out which article is fake on page 20!

Advice from Allison: roommates and boys

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

Dear Allison,

My roommate is driving me insane! She is the messiest person I have ever met. How can I get her to clean the room without insulting her?

-Neat Freak

Dear Freak,

A messy roommate is never a fun situation to deal with. It is frustrating to live in close quarters with someone who cannot respect their belongings enough to keep them clean and off the floor. That is why you should wait until she has left the room for the weekend and get rid of all her belongings. It doesn't matter how you do it. You can sell it and make some cash, give it away to friends for Christmas, or just simply throw it away. Upon her return, your roommate will thank you for teaching her such a valuable lesson.

Dear Allison,

My boyfriend of one year just broke up with me a week ago. Now he is hanging around with a new girl. I feel that it is too soon for him to be seeing new people. What should I do?

-Jealous Junior

Dear Jealous,

Sounds like the reason he broke up with you is because you're too controlling. Maybe you should just back off and let him see new people. I'm sorry if your boyfriend happens to be very good-looking, in shape, and like the same movies and music that I do. Maybe you should spend more time looking for your rebound instead of following your boyfriend and me around campus.

A&E

Theatre professor makes her directorial debut with “On the Verge” at Marjorie Lyons

Jenni Loer
Theatre Correspondent

Emily Heugatter-Mathias makes her directorial debut at Centenary with Eric Overmeyer’s adventure and discovery play “On the Verge, or the Geography of Yearning,” which opens September 27th. She chose this script because “every audience member will find some strong connections with at least one of the characters, and will leave the theatre with optimism about the hope and independence of the human spirit.” Hired to take on the responsibilities of the new director at MLP, Heugatter-Mathias has taken on a larger-than-time-and-space production that requires intense technical work. Reminiscent of MLP’s period dramas, with detailed costumes and experimental scripts with unconventional sets, “On the Verge” is not only a flashback for the characters in the show, but also the students of the theatre department. This production will remind Centenary and the community that Marjorie Lyons Playhouse is committed to producing quality theatre that features details and capitalizes on the talent of the department.

An open set allows for travel through time and space without the restrictions and boundaries of walls and furniture. The various locations of Terra Incognita are ready to be projected onto the stage using light and sound. Don Hooper, the Theatre Department Chair, is designing lights for the production while Jenni Loer, a senior, is designing the sound. The technical aspects of the show are vital to the script, which makes Heugatter-Mathias’ undertaking of this particular show rather ambitious, not only for her first production, but also for the first show of the 2007-2008 season.

Heugatter-Mathias often tells her directing class that the passion a director has for a script will fuel the entire production process. Her dedication has already inspired her four-person cast to create believable characters and an atmosphere of excitement. Ahead of the rehearsal schedule, the cast was even allowed a night off to enjoy a fundraiser event at MLP last Saturday. With full Victorian trekking habiliments, the ladies of the cast seem to have rappelled right out of 1888. Gorgeous costumes, dazzling lights and ambient sound will entice the audience and perhaps provoke their artistic longing, which will keep them coming back to see what else MLP has in store this season.

Three Victorian women from 1888, Mary (Kalah Roberts), Alex (Rachael Lee Magill), and Fanny (Savannah Baggerly), enter into the strange and enticing world of Terra Incognita. What begins as a simple trek through the wildernesses of jungles, beaches, and a dizzying ice storm becomes an adventure through time. As the ladies recount their many experiences trotting the globe, they encounter a multitude of interesting characters, all played by Scott Gibbs. Anthropophagii, mighty silurians, Ike, Yetties, Mr. Coffee, and Madame Nhu form the kaleidoscope of characters which makes up 1955, the ladies’ final destination. The need for adventure, excitement, intrigue, and wile are quenched in this journey of discovery. Yearning to encounter the unknown, converge with the future, and heighten the senses, these three women are “On the Verge”.

“On the Verge, or the Geography of Yearning” will run September 27th through October 6th at Centenary’s Marjorie Lyons Playhouse. For ticket information, call the Box Office at (318) 869-5242. Remember, tickets are free for Centenary students.

Do you love movies?

If so, the Centenary Film society would like to invite
you to join us for free movies
on Tuesday and Thursday nights.
Movies start at 7pm
and are screened in Carlile auditorium.

On September 25th and 27th we are showing

Tony Takitani

As a gifted young artist, Tony’s drawings lacked feeling. When he grows up he becomes a technical illustrator. Suddenly middle-aged, Tony falls in love with a young beautiful woman who visits his shop one day. For the first time in his life he feels as though his cut-and-dry, diagram-riddled existence is brimming with emotion. When Tony asks his love to resist her shop-a-holic weakness for designer clothes tragedy ensues.

“An exquisite film, as elegant and precise as an impeccably cut diamond. It's small in scale but wholly mesmerizing, holding us captive as it demonstrates how much enveloping richness can be conveyed with a minimalist style.”
— Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times

Movie review: “Shoot ‘Em Up” is a clever blend of action and satire

John Bonner
Staff Writer

If you were to go see the movie “Shoot ‘Em Up” in theaters right now (which is recommended), you would most likely see a preview beforehand for “Resident Evil: Extinction”. Now, granted, it’s probably unfair to judge a movie by its preview (the questionably-advertised “Live Free or Die Hard” was one of the summer’s better surprises), but watching Milla Jovovich shoot CGI arrows into zombies, exchanging boring dialogue with interchangeable characters, and performing implausible martial arts moves—all with the same expression—one gets the impression that the movie may take itself a little too seriously. Or that it’s as lifeless as one of its many zombies.

“Shoot ‘Em Up,” however, is the opposite. Although it also features straight-faced shenanigans and implausible maneuvers, it has something that’s missing all too often from today’s action movies: A sense of fun.

First off, the narrative wastes no time in starting: Within the first ten minutes—sooner, even—Smith (Clive Owen) delivers a baby during a shoot-out and goes on the run from a group of villains led by Hertz (Paul Giamatti), who want the baby dead for unknown reasons. Later, Smith enlists the aid of prostitute and former flame Donna Quintano, and so the chase begins as Smith tries to find out why Hertz wants to kill this particular infant, and the sides trade lots of hot bullets.

There is, of course, more to the story and even some slight subtext mixed in, but part of the beauty of the movie is its marvelous lack of pretensions. Watching the movie gives the viewer the impression that what they’re seeing is a sincere, balls-to-wall action movie, poking fun at conventions while wearing its pride for the genre on its sleeve.

With references to the Lone Ranger and Bugs Bunny, writer/director Michael Davis makes perfectly clear to the audience the tone he’s aiming for, which results in an exuberant Saturday matinee for adults as the hilariously frenetic gunfights recall the work of directors John Woo and Robert Rodriguez, but Davis’s own brand of originality (Davis claims to have made a list of different ways to do a gunfight and then incorporating that list into his screenplay).

The players assembled together are all in fine form: Clive Owen (a former frontrunner for the role of 007) has practically made his portrayals of steely-jawed heroes into a science. If you enjoyed him in “Sin City,” you’ll love him here as Smith. Not only does he handle some of the best/worst/funniest puns to be heard in an action movie in a while, but he also makes it clear how a guy like him could survive all of these shoot-outs, largely because he’s so angry. And his list of pet peeves runs long: ponytails, bad drivers, people who slurp their drinks…all are subject to the carrot-loving Smith’s ire.

Usually prone to playing more hapless individuals, Paul Giamatti plays head-honcho Hertz as somewhat hapless, but so dirty and wicked that he’s not nearly as sympathetic as his other characters; Hertz is so bad, in fact, that he is turned on by women’s corpses that are hardly a few hours old. Watching him become increasingly frustrated with Smith foiling his plans is one of the great joys of the movie, and his deep, almost lilting voice helps to deliver some of the best lines (upon seeing more of his henchmen decimated, Hertz exclaims, “My god. Do we really suck, or is this guy really that good?”).

Balancing out the performances between Owen and Giamatti is Monica Belluci as (hoo-boy) prostitute Donna Quintano, renowned for her breast-feeding (she’s often referred to as “DQ”—Get it?). Like her co-stars, Belluci embraces the slightly sleazy trappings of the movie, but she also gives her character a genuine grounding with a twinge of tragedy; Davis made a wise decision in casting an older actress that is both beautiful and capable.

“Politically-correct,” “tasteful,” “family-friendly”… these terms need not apply to “Shoot ‘Em Up,” and in the very best way. In an age where movies change ratings to ensure higher grosses, it’s refreshing to see a hearty R-rated movie that turns no cheek in addressing certain issues (the subplot about what the baby finds comforting is uproarious) and taking creative liberties (wait until you see the sex-scene gunfight).

Like this year’s “Grindhouse” and “Hot Fuzz”, “Shoot ‘Em Up” is a deceitfully clever action satire that is in on the joke as much as the audience is, without making such a big fuss. Forget a lot of the let-downs that emerged from this summer; “Shoot ‘Em Up” marks the beginning of a promising and fun movie-going season.

Shreveport’s
91.3 FM KSCL
Alternative Music Source

If you're a student of Centenary College of Louisiana, live in the Shreveport/Bossier area, and have two hours of your week to spare, then you can have your very own show on KSCL 91.3! All of you with DJ dreams should send an e-mail to Jon Schleuss, the station manager, at JSchleus@centenary.edu. You can check out available spots on the website at kscl.fm.

The Conglomerate details the top five guilty news pleasures in pop culture

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

5. Starting our guilty pleasures countdown is a tie. Neither Lindsay Lohan nor Nicole Richie did anything to stand out from each other, but together they sparked enough talk to make the list. Lohan's transition from squeaky clean child star to barely legal wild child kept her in the news. Richie's attempt to step out on her own after being dubbed Paris Hilton's "sidekick" kept her name on tongue's as well. The legal troubles of both and Richie's impending motherhood have people waiting, though not too anxiously, on their next action.

4. Whether she's falling down and getting up continuing a show as if nothing happened or having alleged wardrobe malfunctions, Beyoncé has been without a doubt one of the most talked about entertainers of the summer. Her sophomore album B-Day which spawned her world tour, The Beyoncé Experience, has helped make Beyoncé one of the guiltiest pleasures of the summer.

3. Rosie vs. The Donald. Rosie vs. Elisabeth. Rosie vs. well everyone. The constant feuding and Rosie's early departure made this the most talked about season of "The View" ever. With the new hosts, Whoopi Goldberg and Sherri Shephard, will the controversy cease or continue?

2. She married an aspiring rapper, former backup dancer and father of two. She then had two sons by him. Then they got divorced. Just when one thought Britney Spears was on the road to recovery she went through one of the most public celebrity breakdowns of all time. From indecent exposure, to shaving her head bald, to the awful performance opening the VMA's, people are on the edge of their seats waiting to see what Britney will do next.

1. Convict. The most famous heiress, Paris Hilton, earned her spot at the top of this list with her legal troubles. Her brushes with the law earned her a spot in prison, on house arrest for a day, and finally back to prison. However, due to the outpour of public support and criticism, Paris Hilton tops the list as this summer's guiltiest pleasure.

The Kanye vs. 50 Cent battle produces CDs showcasing growth and originality

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

September 11, 2007, served as more than a day of remembrance for rap fans everywhere. That was the day of the face-off between two hip-hop giants, Kanye West and 50 Cent, "The Louis Vuitton Don" versus "The Teflon Don."

This rivalry sparked a challenge from 50 Cent, who said that if Kanye West sold more albums than him during his first week, he would retire. Hip-hop heads anticipated the date and rushed to the stores to purchase either one or both.

From Rolling Stone covers to TV show showdowns, many people wondered if the albums were worth all the publicity. They are, because both "Graduation" and "Curtis" are great albums.

50 Cent's third album, "Curtis," shows his growth and maturity as an artist. When the first two singles, "Straight to the Bank" and "Amusement Park," didn't get the public as excited as he felt they should be, 50 went back to the studio and recorded eight new songs. "I Get Money" became the first single to take 50 to the top with this album.

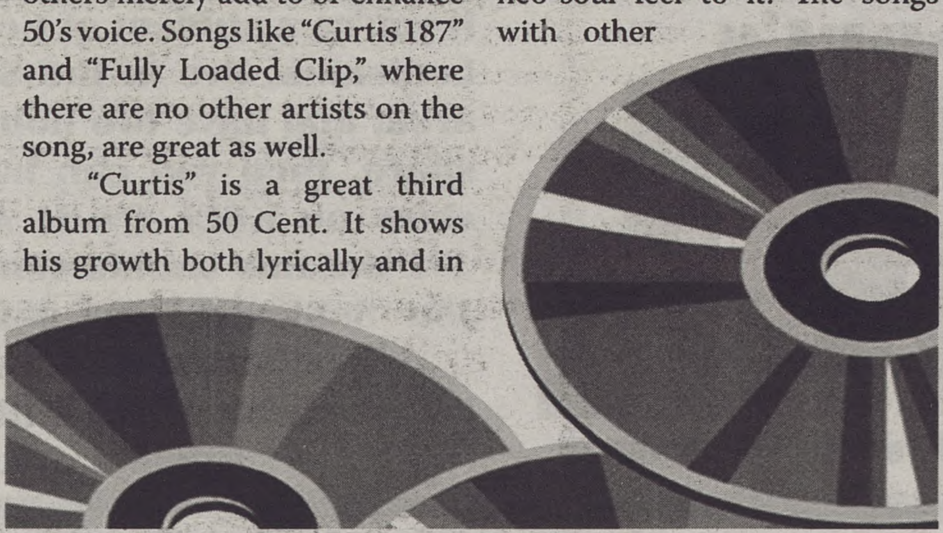
"Curtis" contains the old 50, new 50, and a combination of the two. The old 50 is prevalent on songs like "My Gun Go Off" and "Touch the Sky," a hardcore club hit featuring Tony Yayo. "All of Me," which features Mary J. Blige, is more of a love song.

"Ayo Technology," featuring Justin Timberlake and Timbaland, is a song which has a new, more contemporary style for 50 Cent. Guest appearances from Akon, Eminem, and Dr. Dre also add to "Curtis," but don't let the appearances fool you. The others merely add to or enhance 50's voice. Songs like "Curtis 187" and "Fully Loaded Clip," where there are no other artists on the song, are great as well.

"Curtis" is a great third album from 50 Cent. It shows his growth both lyrically and in production styles while staying true to the fans who have loved him from the beginning.

Kanye West stuck by the "if it's not broke, don't fix it" method for "Graduation". West, who is known for his song samples, does not disappoint with his third album.

With minimal guest appearances, West focuses on the beat and lyrics of his music. He does have guest appearances, though. "Good Life," featuring T. Pain, is a feel-good song "welcoming" the listener to West's idea of the perfect world. "Flashing Lights," featuring Dwele, is a good song with a neo-soul feel to it. The songs with other people, though few and far between, are not always great.



"Barry Bonds" is a wonderful song until Lil' Wayne's appearance. Kanye keeps with the message of his previous works by talking about the things he went through, and he even criticizes himself in "The Glory" when he discusses his Grammy outfit. One of the most heartfelt songs, and perhaps the best song on the album, is "Big Brother," an ode to West's friend and mentor Jay-Z. This is the final song on the album and it brings it to a wonderful close. This is a great third album from Kanye West. It shows his growth as a rapper and producer while staying true to those who loved him from the beginning.

Both "Curtis" and "Graduation" are great albums and both have different styles. Both 50 Cent and Kanye West are geniuses in their own right.

If you prefer more hardcore styles of rap, then 50 Cent is your man. If you prefer your rap to have more of a message mixed with the melodies, the go with Kanye West.

"Dragon Wars" provides yet another reason to attack (North) Korea

William Harvey
Staff Writer

There are bad movies and then there are bad movies. There are movies that are so bad that they make you laugh, and then there's "Dragon Wars".

Just so that you know, I'm not prejudiced. I've been a "Godzilla" movie fan for my entire life. I love giant monster movies of all kinds, so when I heard that "Dragon Wars" was going to be released in theatres, I was excited; after all, it's not every day that a foreign giant monster film is released in American cinemas. I was wrong.

"Dragon Wars" makes Sci-Fi original specials look like Oscar material. I would rather watch "Shark Attack 3: Megalodon" than to watch Dragon wars again. At least the acting was better.

To be fair, the premise had promise. Dragons attacking Los Angeles with armies has some appeal to it, even if it doesn't sound like Oscar material. It's too bad that this takes only about 15 minutes of the film.

"Dragon Wars" begins in an antique shop, when a little boy is given some sort of celestial energy from a dragon scale and the antique shop owner tricks the dad into leaving like a creepy child-molester. What follows is a ridiculously detailed and confusing flashback that does little to explain the story. From what I could see, though, the heavens didn't want the evil Imoogi (dragon-like thing) to transform into a dragon, so they put this power in the safest place: a young girl in a random Korean village.

On her 20th birthday, she is to be sacrificed to the good Imoogi so that he can become a Celestial Dragon and bring peace to the world. Oh, and there are protectors to make sure this can happen, an old one and a young one.

To say that there are plot holes past this point would be to admit that this story has a discernible plot. In the flashback, the protectors can shoot fireballs out of their hands and fly limited distances. It's revealed at the end of the flashback that the creepy old man is the old protector of the good dragon who has survived for over 500 years and can turn into random people at will, whereas the little kid is the reincarnation of the young protector.

This old guy pops up any time there's a situation that the screenwriters couldn't write the protagonists out of. An example of this is when Sara (the reincarnation of the dragon girl) is being assaulted by football players. The old guy shuffles onscreen, punches the football players out, and shuffles off-screen. Any time someone helps the protagonists out, even in little ways, they turn into the old guy.

A particularly disturbing transformation was when a Hispanic lady turned into the old guy after giving the protagonists a lift.

Be warned. After this point there are spoilers (as if you could spoil curdled milk).

The main problem with this movie is that there are no transitions at all. The dream sequences cannot be told apart from the "real" sequences at any part in the movie, although it's implied that there are dream sequences. At one moment the protagonists are riding in a car with their African-American friend, and with no transition they're walking along a beach. To illustrate the terrible acting - I wasn't able to tell that the beach scene was supposed to be romantic until the protagonists kissed.

Things happened in the movie unexpectedly and without warning as well. I particularly love the scene where the main protagonist gets shot, falls down, someone asks, "are you okay?" and he stands up and says "yeah."

I've been to very few movies where people started cheering when the credits started rolling. In one or two cases it was because the movie was amazing. In this case it was because the movie was over.

As Jay Sherman says in "The Critic," "What disease would I rather have than watch this movie?" I think spastic colon. Karyn Gehrls summed it up nicely when she said, "Will, you owe me $6.75."

Support Matthew Campbell and his family
on Wednesday, September 26th.

Donations of $1
($5 for faculty and staff)
can be made
(and stickers received)
at the following locations:

College Store on the main level of the SUB Admissions Office;
to Laura Vaughan in the Christian Leadership Center in the Smith Building; DPS in Centenary Square;
Melinda Koch in Health and Counseling Services in the basement of Rotary;
and The Business Office on the first floor of Hamilton Hall

DVD review: Twenty years later, “RoboCop” still proves its mettle

John Bonner
Staff Writer

Two months and two decades ago, “RoboCop” was released in theaters upon an unsuspecting public, unaware of the cult phenomenon they were about to encounter (a minor cult phenomenon, perhaps, but c’mon, almost everyone recognizes RoboCop when they see him). MGM found it fitting to release a two-disc “Collector’s Edition” DVD of the film last month, which turned out to be a great thing, because it’s a treat for fans and an excellent way to introduce such an intelligent curiosity to newcomers.

For the uninitiated, the story takes place in the Detroit of the future, which has only descended further into crime. Fresh to his precinct, policeman Alex Murphy (Peter Weller) is gunned down by the sadistic Clarence Boddicker (Kurtwood Smith, recognizable as “Red” Forman from “That ‘70s Show”) and his gang. Extremely close to dying, Murphy is placed in a special program by the corporation Omni Consumer Products (OCP) as part of “urban pacification” and to aid in the company’s transition into the still-being-built Delta City (where we’re told on a billboard that “The future has a silver lining.”). Through a brilliant first-person montage sequence, we see human Murphy transform into RoboCop, “The Future of Law Enforcement.” RoboCop quickly establishes himself within the city as a crime-fighting force to be reckoned with, but slowly human memories of his “death” and the family he left behind begin to haunt him. RoboCop then goes after the men who killed him (which leads to a bigger conspiracy within OCP itself) and tries to rediscover his identity as well.

What makes “RoboCop” so amazing is that it’s a successful juggling act of multiple ideas by director Paul Verhoeven (“Total Recall,” “Basic Instinct,” “Starship Troopers”) and screenwriters Edward Neumeier and Michael Miner: The movie is an adult comic book fantasy and a political/corporate satire and a high-tech Christ allegory. This may all sound like too much for a movie with a title like “RoboCop,” but the truth is that you can dig deeper into the filmmakers’ intentions (and these readings and subtexts are intentional) and still enjoy the movie as a brutally funny, straightforward actioner; the movie doesn’t say one thing and do another, it veils and conceals no ulterior motives. If this movie had been made today, it no doubt would have been one-note and taken completely at face-value.

However, if you do choose to take this movie at face-value, that’s not a bad thing either when you have such a wonderful cast and crew. Because the movie is from the era of pre-CGI, matte paintings were used to astonishing effect to transform Dallas, Texas, buildings into towering works of futuristic design. Phil Tippett adds alternative menace and humor to the metal juggernaut of the ED-209—a killing machine that becomes one of RoboCop’s adversaries—with flourishes of superb stop-motion animation. The movie sounds great, too, thanks to composer Basil Poledouris (“Conan the Barbarian”), alternating between the undercurrent of Murphy’s humanity with the industrial nobility of RoboCop.

It should be said that anyone can play a robot, but not every actor can portray a convincing robot. Peter Weller most certainly falls into the latter category, and he does even better when the human soul slowly begins to grow within RoboCop. Nancy Allen nicely plays the part of Officer Anne Lewis, Murphy’s concerned partner, and Miguel Ferrer suitably portrays upstart OCP boardmember Bob Morton, the head of the RoboCop program. The characters who really steal the show are the villains: They’re slimy, they’re cocky, and they’re most certainly not good people in the slightest. They’re also utterly hilarious—it’s only a question of whether you prefer the arrogant seething of Ronny Cox’s OCP senior vice-prez Dick Jones (“I knew where the line was drawn. And you just stepped over it, buddy boy!”) or the snide posturing of Smith’s Clarence Boddicker (“Bitches, leave!”).

The DVD is well worth a rental, as it has plenty of informative special features as well as both versions of the film (the uncensored director’s cut contains shots that were cut out of the theatrical version because the MPAA saw them as too violent for just an R rating). It reminds us that “RoboCop” is exceptional science-fiction because of its execution of original concepts, so you can feel smart watching it and still enjoy watching Peter Weller blow away drug dealers.

Take My Advice

Writing Lab	Magale Library 1A Sunday - Thursday	**8:00-10:00pm**
Math Lab	Wright Math Building Sunday - Thursday	**6:00-8:00pm**
Subject Labs	Magale Library 1A	**6:00-9:00pm**
Biology	Monday & Tuesday	
Economics	Monday & Tuesday	
French	Sunday & Monday	
German	Thursday	
History	Sunday & Wednesday	
Physics	Thursday	
Political Science	Sunday & Wednesday	
Psychology	Thursday	
Religious Studies	Monday & Tuesday	
Spanish	Wednesday	

Learning and all ARCS services are free to all Centenary Students. If you have any questions contact Dr. Meg Webber or Dr. Kim VanHoosier-Carey at arcs@centenary.edu

Academic Resource Center for Students (arcs)

www.centenary.edu/arcs

Movie review: "The Nanny Diaries" promises uncertain college students life after graduation

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

The Nanny Diaries was a satisfying film experience. Based off of the novel by Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus, The Nanny Diaries introduced a college graduate in Business, Annie, who does not know what she wants to do with her life. She becomes lost, to say the least, and takes on a nanny job, at first, as a mistake, but then to find herself.

Through many hardships, misunderstandings, and painful experiences, she finds her true self and decides to go to graduate school in Anthropology.

The most interesting part of the movie is the way it is shaped and introduced. The entire duration of the film is made to be a graduate school application. It is called a study of human behavior, specifically the behavior of the Upper East Side mother and the nanny.

With museum exhibits introduced in the beginning, the film demonstrates, even though the audience does not know it, Annie's interest in Anthropology before they even find out that she minored in it in college.

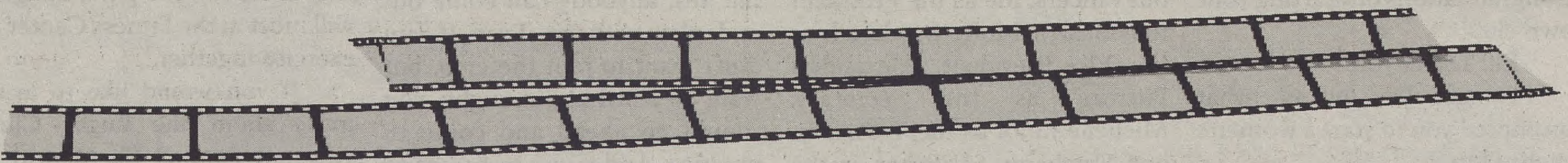
Scarlett Johansson plays Annie, a confused yet very observant nanny to Grayer, played by up-and-coming child actor Nicholas Art. The performances of all the actors in the movie were very believable. Laura Linney plays Mrs. X, Grayer's mother, and becomes this deceitful, spoiled woman from the Upper East Side who used to be a hard-working woman. Now, she spends more time at a spa thinking about her troubled marriage than spending time with her only son.

Paul Giamatti plays a supporting role as Mr. X, a womanizing and not-so-attractive, businessman who would rather spend his time in Chicago with his secretary than spend time with his own son as well. Grayer now must spend time with Annie, the nanny, whom he comes to love deeply.

Everything, from the editing to the music to the cinematography was all very well-done.

During certain parts of the film, the filmmakers inserted several dream sequences to show Annie's struggle to make a decision. These dream sequences were made out to be very different than the real life sequences to show the audience they were not in real life anymore, that they were in Annie's brain instead. Smart move, movie men!

Overall, the movie was very entertaining. Not only did it seem the audience was taken into this "other" world of nanny-dom, it showed what a lot of college students are afraid of after graduation: life.



Website makes it possible to purchase bulletproof gear for babies

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

Recently, I was surfing the web and came across a site called "bulletproofbaby.net." Apparently, this site is one in which you can purchase bullet proof gear for your baby. This gear includes: bulletproof vest, infant riot gear (helmet and shield), bulletproof crib, bulletproof stroller, bomb blanket, infant gas mask, and more.

According to the company Founder and CEO Stella Stevenson, she got the idea when, in 2004, her oldest son was almost hit by a bullet from a drive-by shooting. Apparently there was a gap in the bulletproof market, so she decided to design and sell bullet-proof products for babies.

There are very few places I can think of that anyone would need a bulletproof vest, let alone a baby. Here are the few of the reasons a baby would need a bullet-proof vest:

1. Angelina Jolie adopts another child and decides to take a tour of Iraq. It's dangerous and the children there are already carrying around guns. If a fight breaks out in the playground, who knows what could go down.

2. New Orleans suffers another hurricane and looters are so desperate to provide for their families. Who knows how crazy some of these people are? They may try to steal your baby's diapers and when your baby doesn't give them up, they may become desperate. Then again, living in New Orleans normally might require a bulletproof vest for your baby or yourself.

3. In the projects of New York City, Chicago, Detroit, or any other very dangerous cities in the United States. It's already dangerous, so, if your baby doesn't belong to a gang, he/she may become initiated in a terrible way.

And last, but not least:

4. If the baby was the child of 50 Cent. Everyone knows that 50 Cent insists that someone is out to assassinate him (He has nine bullet holes to back it up), so I'm sure that he would put his children in bulletproof vests as well, just in case.

At the rate these Bullet Proof Baby (BPB) people are going, they may end up making baby tanks to start their training for the military. With the riot gear they provide, BPB may also train your baby to fight not only in war, but in protests as well.

Ahh, if I would have had a bulletproof vest as a child, that bullet that clipped my arm when I was 10 months old during that gun fight I was involved in wouldn't have left that wicked looking scar.

SPORTS

New rugby club opens to women on campus

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

If you checked your webmail recently, you already know that Centenary now has its own Women's Rugby Football Club. Its founder, Eli Madrid, talked to the Conglomerate about her motivation for starting the club, the initial response she has received, and the reasons why every Centenary lady should join.

Conglomerate: Hi, Eli! Congratulations on starting your own club!

Eli: Thank you!

Congo: Do tell us what prompted you to start a women's rugby club.

Eli: First of all, I think it's a cool sport. Second, we don't have any contact sports at Centenary, so it's something that allows you to get physical. Actually, I really like soccer, but it's so competitive to get on the team. Plus, you have to be a really good athlete and take a lot of time off of your schedule to play. Women's Rugby is just a club, it's a fun sport, and anybody can do it. Unless you're a guy.

Congo: Didn't there use to be a Men's Rugby Club, as well?

Eli: Yes, but it's kind of dead. Nic Clark, its captain, has graduated and left… and now it's kind of dead.

Congo: Do you plan to make your club official?

Eli: Yes, as soon as SGA meets, we're going to apply to be an official Centenary-approved club.

Congo: What was the response you got so far?

Eli: Just from a global e-mail I sent out, we got about thirty girls that wanted to play! So, if all goes well and everyone comes out to practice every week, we'll have two squads of fifteen people. It's going to be awesome!

Congo: How did your first meeting go?

Eli: It went great! A lot of people showed up and we chose our officers: me as the President (obviously), Molly Broderick as the Vice-President, Alexandria Pittman as the Secretary, Michelle Junot as the Treasurer, and Stephanie Schreiber as the Manager. After our introductory meeting, we had our Friday rugby social, which we hope to make an ongoing tradition. During our first Friday night event, we had popcorn and watched "300."

Congo: What are your long-term plans for the club?

Eli: Well, the NCAA approved women's rugby as a Division I sport, so if we're a strong enough club and we can get Centenary to approve it as an official school sport, we would be the second school in the United States to be NCAA Division I Rugby. But before the school can put money into us, they want us to have a real club. I think that a year would be more than enough to show that there's commitment to it. If we do get approved, we could have scholarships and awesome uniforms, as well as money to travel.

Congo: Do you have any games lined up yet?

Eli: Yes, there's going to be a tournament in Baton Rouge in October – and it's going to be great. Three or four more girls' clubs will come from around the area and you can actually go and watch guys play, too. It's usually a big party, because everybody's in Baton Rouge and it's the LSU campus… It's huge and everyone should go – if not to play, then just for the experience.

Congo: So, seriously, can ANY girl join the Women's Football Rugby Club?

Eli: Yes, anybody can come out and play with us. Even if you don't want to join the club, but want to learn about rugby, you should go ahead and come to practice. And if you just want to get fit and train with us, you can do that, too. Actually, if you're a guy and want to train with us or watch us practice and support us, you're welcome to come, too!

Congo: Sounds great! Any last words?

Eli: Rugby's really cool because anybody can play it! Even if you're heavy and slow, there's a position for you. If you're skinny and quick and don't want to get smashed by heavy and slow people, there's a position for you. And if you have to wear a mouth guard, you know the sport is awesome!

Centenary Women's Football Rugby Club meets for practice every Monday and Wednesday, 6-7 p.m., out on the Jones Rice Field. Every Tuesday and Thursday, 7-8 p.m., the girls will meet in the Fitness Center to exercise together.

If you would like to learn more about the Rugby Club, you may contact Eli Madrid at emadrid@centenary.edu.

Also, make sure to join the Centenary Women's Football Rugby Club Facebook group!

Eli Madrid at the Baton Rouge Rugby Tournament. Photo submitted by Aleks Kasztalska.

Conglomerate presents: Life of a student athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

It has been a lengthy few weeks since the beginning of school and the start of our long season.

It has been exciting in the realm of sports around here. Not only did the Centenary Ladies soccer team beat Texas State, but also our Centenary Gents soccer team picked up their first win.

As far as my life goes as a softball player, it has been one of those weeks. My team and I have pushed our intensity into high gear, working hard preparing for the next three weekends. I was faced with the task in our first intersquad scrimmage of hitting against my roommate — a bittersweet rivalry that stirred up conversations in the dorm room.

It is that time of the season when our hamstrings are sore, our arms struggle to hold up a bat at practice, and our shirts look and feel like we just pulled them out of the washing machine — drenched in sweat. But this is the time when we can call ourselves athletes.

Practicing until 9 p.m. almost every night and waking up at 6 a.m. for weights, we find ourselves doing it all over again the next day. In order to call ourselves student athletes, we have to prove to ourselves that we can handle the workload of school and practice, and it is only "off season" – but it seems that still, some will never understand.

picture from GoCentenary.com

I just want to give a shout out to each sport and every student athlete on our Centenary campus. We represent Centenary College all across the nation each year and we love chanting our "C" after a big win — that's what we live for as athletes.

Come out and support the Ladies softball team on September 29 and October 6, all day at the Centenary softball complex.

Go Ladies & Gents!

"I come to play everyday." - David Ortiz, Boston Red Sox

Students respond to college football question of the week

John Cefalu
Staff Writer

Who should be ranked number one in BCS standings?

"LSU has proven based on their past two games to be number one, and it's under their belt."

-Roland Womac

"USC! Still, at this point, they still show more skill. If LSU continues the same path, then consider it."

-Saul Castaneda

"Texas! Mack Brown can put it together again and get back to the top. Plus, the team has been doing really well lately."

-Wladimir Montoyer

"I think LSU should be number one because USC had a bye week and LSU beat a number nine (top 10) ranked team by 41 points. Some say that VT was overrated but I disagree. VT has had a top-rated defense for the past four years and LSU was just a better team. USC is good, but they do not have a good conference. SEC beats up on each other and USC has a straight ride to a BCS bowl game every year. I am not saying this because I am an LSU fan - if anyone was better than LSU, I would say it."

-Chase Fallin

"LSU! The polls are supposed to be based on present, 2007 season performance. I don't disagree that USC was, or has been, number one in the past, but let's get real here! LSU has been more than impressive against a conference (SEC) and top 10 ranked opponent compared to USC's less-than-impressive victory over number what, like 168, Idaho! I didn't even know Idaho had a football team! Pat Forde of ESPN radio even said, "If people want to believe USC should be number one based on this season's performances, then that is fine, as long as they hand over their keys to a designated driver."

-John Cefalu

Athlete of the Week: Gents soccer player reveals his plans for the future

Ryan Thacker
Staff Writer

Full Name: Sammy Leon Robinson
Nickname: Black Magic
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Business
Hometown: Houston, Texas
Sport: Gents Soccer
Position: Midfield/Forward

How old were you when you started playing? 3 years old.

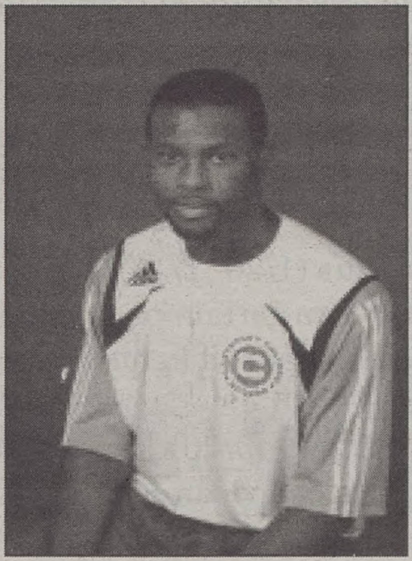
Why did you choose to come to Centenary? I have family in Louisiana.

What do you look forward to the most this season? Playing the top teams.

Who is your favorite pro athlete? Samuel Eto'o.

What are your plans after graduation? Hopefully play some pro ball, but if not, do some coaching and find a job out in the business world.

What's something interesting that not many people know? I ran into a glass window when I was 4.



picture from GoCentenary.com

HOROSCOPES

INSPIRED BY BILL WATTERSON'S COMIC

CALVIN AND HOBBES

Aries (3/21- 4/19) "It's only work if somebody makes you do it."

Taurus (4/20- 5/20) "What fun is it being cool if you can't wear a sombrero?"

Gemini (5/21- 6/21) "Reality continues to ruin life."

Cancer (6/22- 7/22) "Weekends don't count unless you spend them doing something completely pointless."

Leo (7/23- 8/22) "To make a bad day worse, spend it wishing for the impossible."

Virgo (8/23- 9/22) "We're so busy watching out for what's just ahead of us that we don't take time to enjoy where we are."

Libra (9/23- 10/22) "Childhood is short and maturity is forever."

Scorpio (10/23- 11/21) "People pay more attention to you when they think you're up to something."

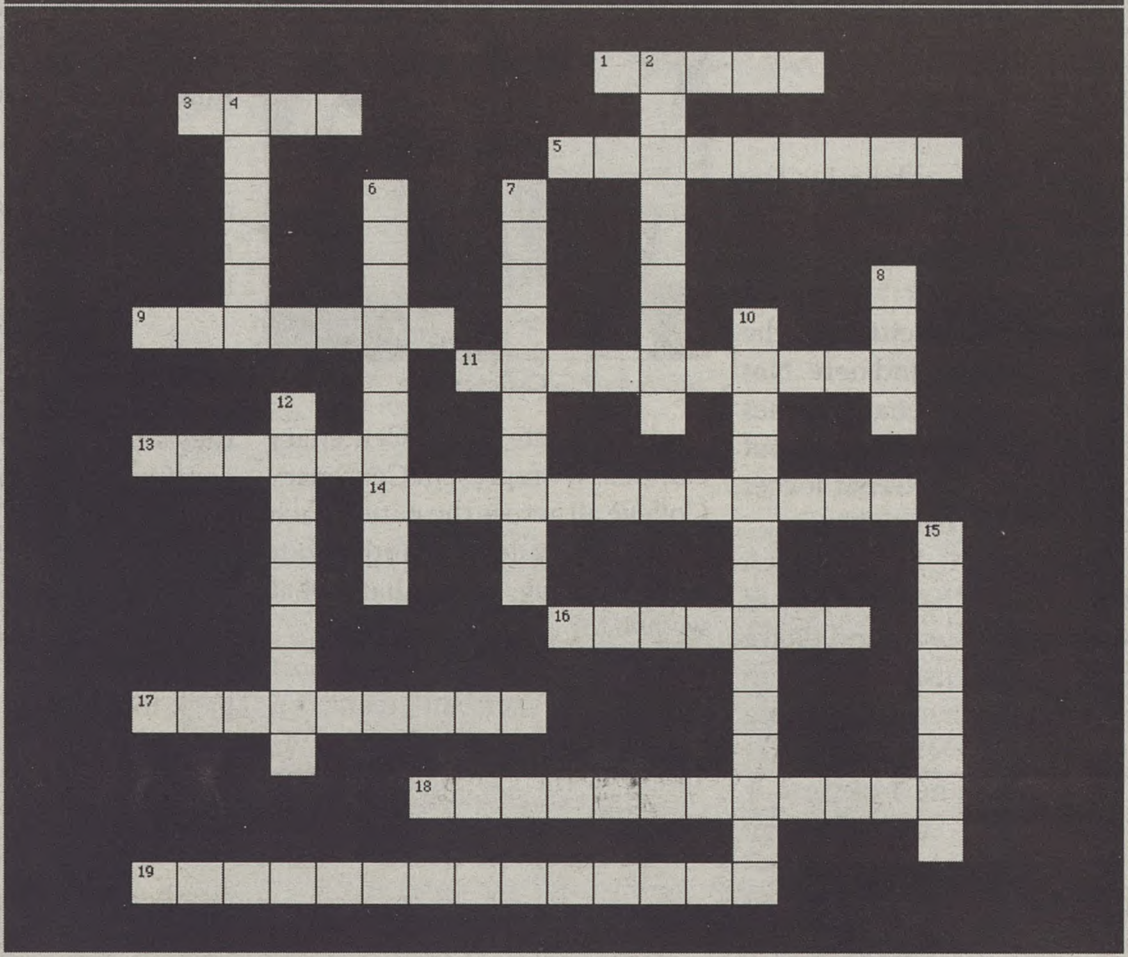
Sagittarius (11/22- 12/21) "It is man's indomitable nature to scare himself silly for no good reason!"

Capricorn (12/22- 1/19) "...start listening to those quiet, nagging doubts."

Aquarius (1/20- 2/18) "It's hard to be religious when certain people are never incinerated by bolts of lightning."

Pisces (2/19- 3/20) "If warped values are the price of a vicarious thrill, so be it!"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: ON THE RADIO



ACROSS

1. Country singer Taylor ______

3. Britney's ex

5 . "Stronger" artist

9 . "Potential ________ Song"

11. Justin Timberlake album FutureSex/_______

13. Rapper Missy

14. "When You're Gone" artist

16. "Umbrella" artist

17. Soulja Boy single

18. "Say it Right" singer

19. High School Muscial star

DOWN

2. British singer Amy

4. "Big Girls Don't Cry" artist

6. "Black Horse and a Cherry Tree" artist

7. "Makes Me Wonder" band

8. Kanye

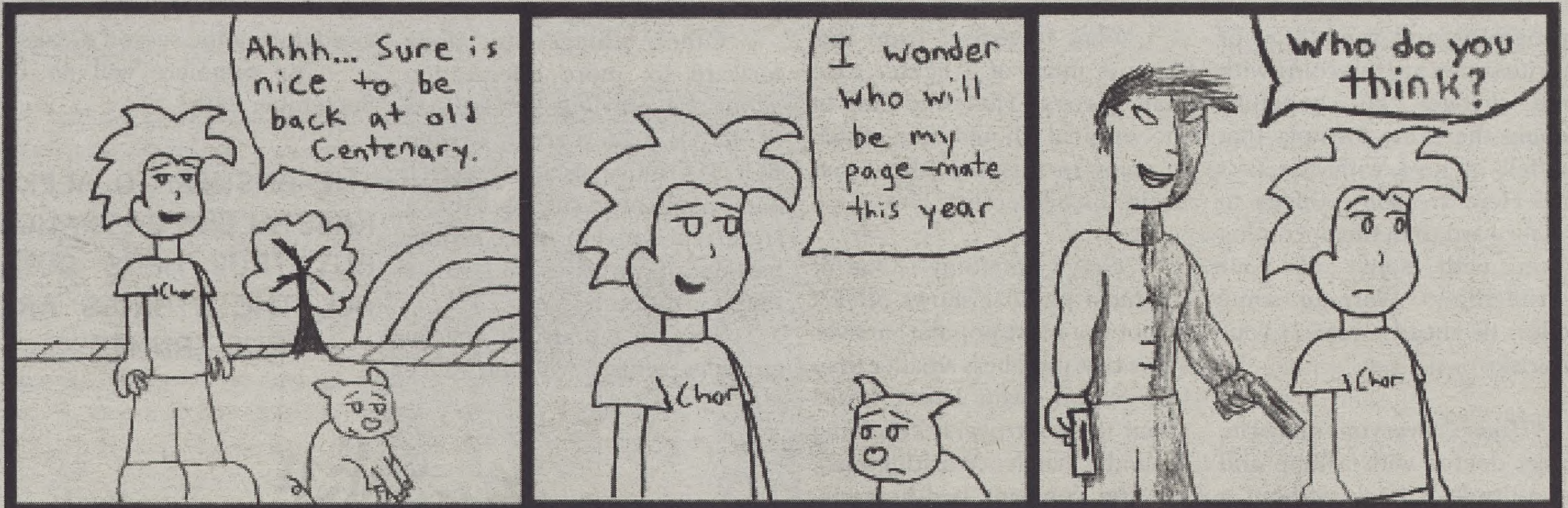
10. "A Bay Bay" singer

12. "The Way I Are" artist

15. "Beautiful Girls" singer Sean

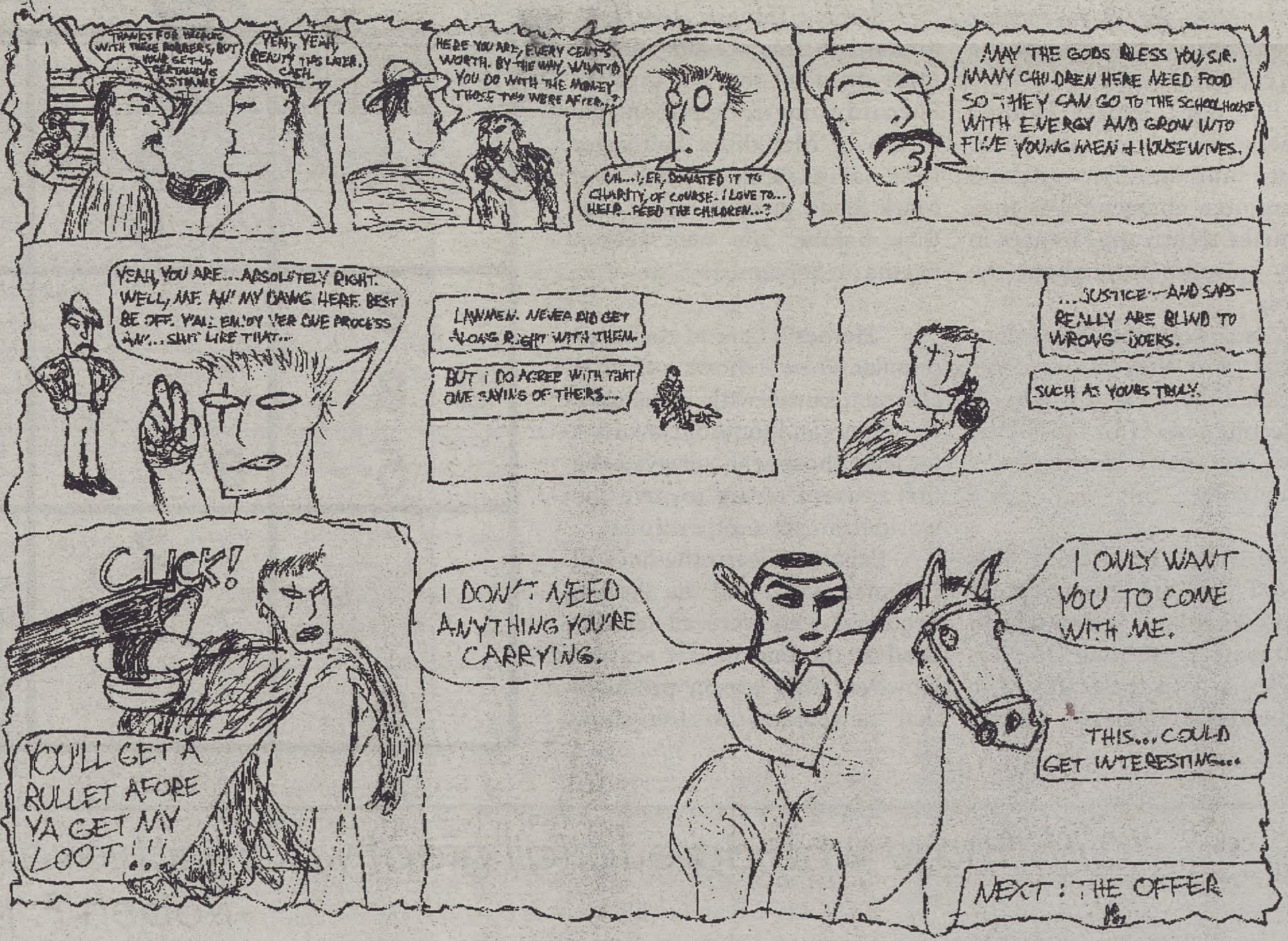
A Day with Christ

by Chris Christ


Ahhh... Sure is nice to be back at old Centenary.
Char
I wonder who will be my page-mate this year
Char
Who do you think?
Char

Wildfist

By John Bonner


THANKS FOR DEALING WITH THOSE ROBBERS, BUT YOUR GET-UP CERTAINLY IS A STRANGE
YEAH, YEAH, BEAUTY THIS LATER. CASH.
HERE YOU ARE, EVERY CENT'S WORTH. BY THE WAY, WHAT'D YOU DO WITH THE MONEY THOSE TWO WERE AFTER..?
UH...I, ER, DONATED IT TO CHARITY, OF COURSE. I LOVE TO... HELP...FEED THE CHILDREN...?
MAY THE GODS BLESS YOU, SIR. MANY CHILDREN HERE NEED FOOD SO THEY CAN GO TO THE SCHOOLHOUSE WITH ENERGY AND GROW INTO FINE YOUNG MEN + HOUSEWIVES.
YEAH, YOU ARE...ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. WELL, ME AN' MY DAWG HERE BEST BE OFF. Y'ALL ENJOY YER DUE PROCESS AN'...SHIT LIKE THAT...
LAWMEN. NEVER DID GET ALONG RIGHT WITH THEM.
BUT I DO AGREE WITH THAT ONE SAYING OF THEIRS...
...JUSTICE—AND SAPS—REALLY ARE BLIND TO WRONG-DOERS.
SUCH AS YOURS TRULY.
CLICK!
YOU'LL GET A BULLET AFORE YA GET MY LOOT!!!
I DON'T NEED ANYTHING YOU'RE CARRYING.
I ONLY WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME.
THIS...COULD GET INTERESTING...
NEXT: THE OFFER

Fall television preview: cynical doctors, melodramatic doctors, and a few heroes all vie for tube supremacy next week

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

The new TV season is fast approaching and some of your favorite shows are returning with some changes, but hopefully keeping the same formula that you fell in love with the first time. Here are some things to look forward to in the upcoming season with some of your favorite shows. Warning: some spoilers lie ahead – read at your own risk.

"House": Everyone's favorite cranky doctor with a limp and bad attitude is back without a diagnostic team. So what is the good doctor to do? Well, the same thing as always: take a new case and hope that he'll make the right calls in the end.

But don't expect House's former team to disappear quietly into the TV wasteland of forgotten characters, as they will make return appearances in many episodes throughout the season.

Also, expect a "fast" love interest for the cranky one. Overall, it looks like it will be an interesting season for fans of the show. The season premiere airs on September 25th.

"Private Practice": This spin-off of the ever-popular "Grey's Anatomy" finds Addison Montgomery heading to Los Angeles to join the staff of the Oceanside Wellness Center in Santa Monica. There, she encounters even more of the love minefields that were so prevalent in Seattle.

What to expect from this show is more of a lighter tone than "Grey's". However, fans of the original should find much to enjoy in this new show that begins on September 26th.

"Grey's Anatomy": One of the most popular shows on TV (if not the most popular) arrives a few cast members smaller than last season (who hasn't heard about the controversy revolving around Isaiah Washington?), but the constant bed-hopping, romantic fretting, and medical drama will remain intact.

Some things to look forward to this season: a new male character that will give Dr. Shepard some competition, the return of Meredith's half-sister Lexie as a series regular, and Mark Sloan given a bigger role than before. The new season begins on September 27th.

"Heroes": One of the most popular new shows of last season returns with some new characters and some old favorites (at least those who survived the first season) trying to save the world from yet another threat.

Expect to learn the fates of Parkman, D.L., and the Petrelli Brothers, who were all left for dead at the end of last season. However, this season promises that newcomers to the show will not be confused as to what happened last season, so feel free to join in if you have never seen the show before.

Other things to look forward to: more information about the previous generations of Heroes, a guest arc by Kristen Bell (Veronica Mars herself), and many new surprises on a show renowned for the constant barrage of surprises and twists that it gives each week.

Also on tap are six special episodes which will introduce the world to new Heroes and allow the audience to pick the one that will become a series regular. These episodes will be aired during the season breaks.

The premiere will air on September 24th.

THE ANSWER TO ALEKS KASZTALSKA'S STRANGE BUT TRUE NEWS QUIZ: ALL THE STORIES ARE TRUE. (PWNED.)

Sudoku

6	4	8					5	
		2		6	1			
				9				
	2				7		3	
3	8						7	6
	5		6				9	
				2				
			7	4		9		
	9					3	2	4

"Only those who dare to fail greatly can achieve greatly."
-Robert F. Kennedy

The CONGLOMERATE

September 28, 2007 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 5

Opening Words

"When nooses are being hung in high schools in the 21st century, it's a tragedy."
-Barack Obama

What's Happening

Former basketball coach sues Centenary for sex discrimination

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Former Centenary ladies basketball coach Elizabeth Wamsley is suing the College, according to The Shreveport Times.

Wamsley is suing through the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and claiming that Centenary violated federal sex discrimination law by essentially firing her for being a mother.

Former Athletic Director Taylor Moore fired Wamsley in March 2006 for the purported reason of her 4-49 record between the 2004-2006 seasons. The lawsuit, however, which was filed on September 20, says that Moore raised concerns to another school employee about how well Wamsley could do her job while being a mother.

Wamsley's child was born in September 2005. The lawsuit also says that she returned to her coaching duties ten days after delivery of the baby, while Moore's alleged conversation says her "life choice" prevents her from 100% coaching commitment.

Marjorie Lyons Playhouse's "On the Verge" is an entertaining romp for the actors and audience alike

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Marjorie Lyons Playhouse's season is in full swing and the steady stream of shows for the year has begun. First we had the spirited versions of Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew" and "Romeo & Juliet". Now we have yet another fun outing with "On the Verge."

The play centers on three Victorian-era women – Mary (Kalah Roberts), Fanny (Savannah Baggerly), and Alexandra (Rachael Magill). They are on an adventure to a land that they call Terra Incognita. While there, the three travelers hope to find adventure, exotic locales, and whatever new discoveries await them in the uncharted land before them.

However, along the way, they end up having some serious misadventures while also trying not to rip each other limb from limb with their machetes.

To say anything more would spoil some of the many surprises and strange detours that the play holds, not to mention the fun. Let's just say that the adventure descends into trippiness at points, but never lets the strange stuff overturn the major story.

The performances were all excellent, with the comic timing and mastery of the Victorian language coming through nicely. However, special consideration must be given to Scott Gibbs, who has to play many different characters, complete with differing accents and demeanors, throughout the entire play, and nearly manages to steal the show every time. Magill also puts in a very fun performance as the excitable Alexandra. She has some of the funniest scenes of the play and makes great use of them. Roberts and Baggerly do fine work, especially as they are given some of the more serious scenes. It is plainly obvious that every actor is having a lot of fun performing the play.

There was no backdrop for the stage, just the floor, which was shaped like compass with a clock around it. This means that the play relies on the sound, performances, and the occasional prop to create the settings. All of this is done very well.

continued on page 3

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SPECIAL SECTIONS

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MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR - PAGES 14-16

Stop the Legal Lynching
Free the Jena 6
Act Now to Stop War & End Racism Coalition • ANSWERcoalition.org

Photo by Assistant Professor of Education Robert Prickett.

Letter from the editor: Despite recent events, sweet home Louisiana offers something to smile about

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

At a time when national and even international attention is being focused on our state in a negative way, it seems difficult to remember why we love Louisiana. The Jena 6 controversy is just one in a long list of recent incidents that has brought less than favorable press to this state, starting with the multi-tiered failure of a response to Hurricane Katrina in 2004 and stretching to this summer's scandal over Senator David Vitter's dealings with prostitutes.

On a recent trip to Las Vegas, however, I discovered a few reasons why Louisiana, and even Shreveport, should still be appreciated. They may seem trite or even exaggerated, but just trust in their authenticity.

1) You don't have to wait in line for hours to get into a decent club. Seriously, friends of mine on the Vegas trip waited in line for 3.5 hours just to gain entry to Pure nightclub, often visited by the likes of Kanye West and Britney Spears (fear not, I only joined them half an hour before we got in). When we finally entered, it was only to find only those with VIP status could sit down. Phoenix Underground downtown may not be the classiest place on earth, but you can get in quickly for some dancing and perhaps much-needed drinks.

2) You're not constantly faced with the height of vapid materialism. Vegas is undoubtedly fun, with its showgirls, showboys, Broadway musical and Cirque du Soleil shows, but 2 days was more than enough for me. The bright lights and over-the-top glitziness of the casinos and the patrons who frequent them becomes exhausting after a while – I found myself longing for the quiet, down-to-earth life that is often taken for granted in "boring" Shreveport.

3) I thought I had a third point a little more substantial than the fact that you don't have to pay $15 for a cocktail here, but I'm at a loss.

If you're inclined to disagree with all of that, or believe nothing in the near future can repair our tarnished reputation, then at least enjoy my dad's favorite David Vitter joke.

Q: What did David Vitter say when a reporter asked him about Katrina?

A: "Never heard of her."

(Go on, laugh. It's pure class.)

Question of the Week

WHO WOULD YOU SEND YOUR NUDE PICTURES TO?

(in honor of "High School Musical" star Vanessa Hudgens' recent scandal)

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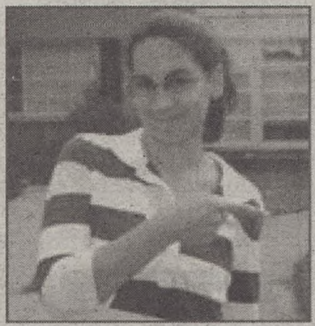
"Hugh Hefner." - Kat Michiels, Senior

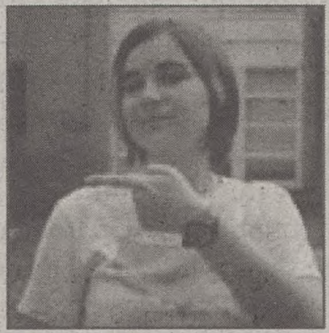
"George W. Bush." - Claire McDonell, Senior

"You!"" - Purple Monster, Freshman

"My boyfriend." - Rachel Owings, Senior



Rachel Powell, Senior



Emily DeLatin, Senior

MLP's "On the Verge" full of enjoyable misadventures, cont. from the front page

Of course, no play is perfect, but the problems are more with the actual play itself than the MLP production. The play is a little long and starts to drag a little towards the end. The Victorian language of the main characters also takes adjustment at first, but by the end of the play, I didn't really notice the language anymore.

This review may seem short (and it is), but the less you know about the play, the better off you'll be when you see it. Ultimately, the play is a little trippy, a little mind-bending, and extremely entertaining. It may not be for everyone (it all depends on how you like your weird with your plays), but if you want a good laugh, then check out "On the Verge." It is definitely time well spent.

EDITORIALS

Centenary needs to become more environmentally active

In a time when the words "global warming," "environment," and "sustainability" are on the lips of scientists, politicians, and even religious leaders worldwide, the Centenary community remains surprisingly nonchalant about these pressing issues. Centenary's website professes that Centenary students "connect their work and lives to the world at large," yet we have room to improve on this issue. Although the Centenary Environmental Association runs a modest recycling program for mixed paper, newspaper, and aluminum cans, it remains largely unused. Many students feel that as long as they refrain from littering, they have done their part to ensure a clean, healthy world. As an educated community, we cannot simply stop at that – instead, we should realize that how much we use of one resource and how we dispose of it can have a major impact on the world around us.

Imagine the potential waste that 800 students plus the college faculty and staff can generate in one year. Then consider these facts: the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that about 80% of what Americans throw away is recyclable, yet our recycling rate is just 28%. What is the recycling rate of Centenary? How much paper do we print for our classes, and how much of that is recycled? Consider that recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees, 7000 gallons of water, and 60 pounds of air pollution (according to the EPA and the Center for Ecological Technology). Also, think of all the Red Bulls and Mountain Dews we drink to get through college – according to the non-profit organization Eco Cycle, recycling just one aluminum can can save enough energy to operate a TV for three hours.

Leaders around the world have developed both creative and common sense approaches to helping the environment. For example, California has joined the Kyoto Agreement to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, Iceland has recently developed a way for cars to run off of geothermal energy, and even the Vatican has installed solar panels. Furthermore, the Vatican will become the world's first carbon neutral state with the help of a Hungarian company that has pledged to plant enough trees to offset the Vatican's carbon emissions. Although Centenary lacks the funding for such large scale projects, students and the administration can both do their part help the environment. First, we can take advantage of the Centenary's existing recycling system. It is free, easy, and your room's trashcan will not fill up as quickly. Second, we can stay aware of how much water and electricity we use – 45 minute showers and empty lit rooms both fall into the category of "excessive." Third, as the college makes changes to the campus, we should all encourage the administration to consider the green building practices. If we commit to these goals, we will have taken a first step towards connecting our lives to the world in a meaningful and sustainable way.

Megan Ottesen
Senior
Centenary Environmental
Association member

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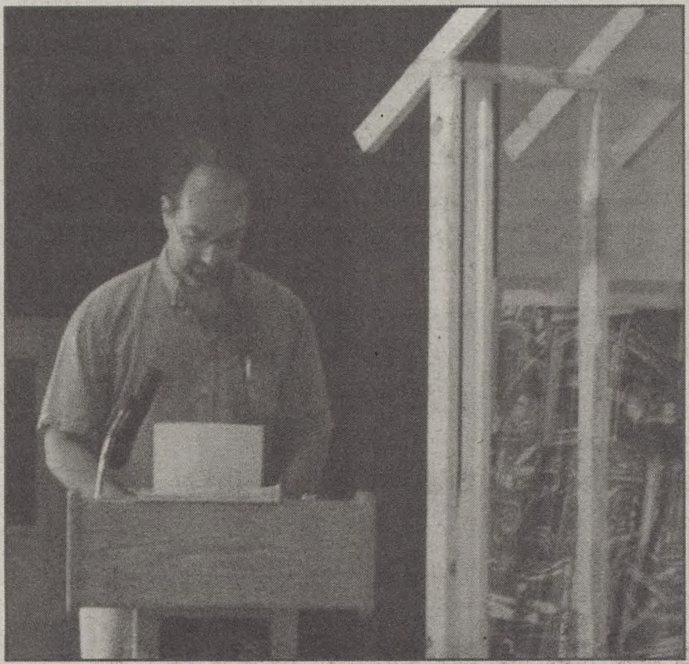
FEATURES

Attaway fellow Mathew Schwarzman fights to make a difference in New Orleans



Tia Landrum
Staff Writer

In post-Katrina New Orleans, Mathew Schwarzman is an educator fighting to make a difference.

Recently, many students attended an inspiring presentation by Dr. Schwarzman (who upon meeting anyone insists immediately that he is "Mat").

During his presentation, Dr. Schwarzman outlined his educational program, "Creative Forces," which is designed for the imaginative development of students who otherwise might not find motivation to learn. The slogan of the program is "Information plus imagination equals knowledge."

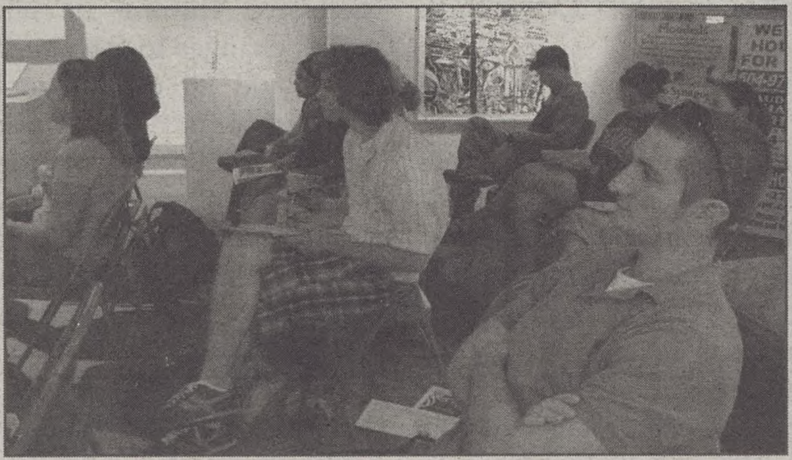
Schwarzman was not satisfied with the standards of New Orleans, where a common phrase of acceptance is "Close enough for jazz," which excuses the town's shortcomings. Though he admits all towns have their flaws, more can be done to improve the city.

To kick-start positive changes in the city, Schwarzman has begun his program, "Creative Forces." It is made up of 11 public high school students who, according to Shwarzman, are part of a "core group of inspired members who share a goal of success."

As a prime example of the success of his program, Schwarzman played a song for the audience that was written, composed, and performed by two of his students. The writer and performer was a 16-year-old girl who was in the special education program for eight years. The composer was a teenage boy who was failing high school and had been suspended.

By leading students like them to learn without creative limit, Schwarzman has brought inspiration into the classroom as an element as vital as books and writing utensils. One point Schwarzman hopes to perpetuate is that public education must be more than "teaching to test," and more about remembering what is important to us.

As he pushes science education and learning "gratefully but not passively," Schwarzman hopes to influence students to not only follow instruction, but to "own" their work. Identity is vital to humanity, and, as Schwarzman said, "High school students are literally locked up. When you start creating something, you really start to own it."



top left: Mat Schwarzman presents his educational program for New Orleans, "Creative Forces." above: Centenary students and community members in attendance at last Tuesday's convocation. Photos by Mindy McKoin.

Ticker: World news in brief

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who assumed the role after longstanding Labour leader Tony Blair stepped down this June, **made his first "maiden" speech to his party on Monday.** Brown emphasized his own program of change for the country, which includes stricter gun control laws, an overhaul of the education system, and a proposal to change the constitution to give Parliament the final decision on war.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of Iran, spoke at Columbia University and the United Nations in New York City this week. His comments met expectations borne of his usual incendiary remarks (he is known for wanting to wipe Israel off the map), including an assertion that there are no homosexuals in Iran. Ahmadinejad also spoke of reevaluating the perpetrators behind 9/11 and proof of the Holocaust. Columbia University President Lee Bollinger, who had come under fire for inviting the leader to speak, introduced the president to the 600-strong crowd with a series of criticisms, calling Ahmadinejad "a petty and cruel dictator."

In Myanmar, the Southeast Asian country formerly known as Burma, **Buddhist monks are peacefully protesting for democracy.** The military regime has cracked down on the government demonstrations, and Thursday, soldiers fired into the crowds, reportedly killing 9 monks and a journalist.

For local and national news, see page 6. For news about the Jena 6, see page...

Deadlines for scholarships to study abroad in the spring semester stretch from early October to late January

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

Studying abroad can be a great experience, which is why everyone should at least take it into consideration. Especially since Centenary has several study abroad programs through its partnerships with universities on three different continents.

Therefore, Centenary students have the opportunity of spending a semester or a whole year in France, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Mexico or Hong Kong.

Many have tried their luck in these programs, though currently there are only two students studying abroad. One of them is in Belgium on a CODOFIL scholarship for the entire year. The other is studying in Turkey for a semester on an independent ACS program.

According to Intercultural Affairs Director April Valentine, there are about three or four students hoping to go abroad in the spring. Their countries of choice are France, Hong Kong and Denmark.

Although the deadline for spring study abroad applications is October 1, there is still time to apply for study abroad scholarships.

There are two major scholarships that a student planning to go abroad in the spring may apply for: Gilman and Freeman ASIA. Their deadlines are October 9 and October 8, respectively.

It is also worth mentioning that the NSEP scholarship deadline is January 29. This award can be used for any program during the 2008/2009 semester.

In addition, the deadline for study abroad during fall 2008 or the 2008/2009 academic year is April 1 (though the Ireland program has a separate date, which is to be announced at a later time).

If you have any questions about study abroad or would like to get more information about these scholarships, contact April Valentine at avalenti@centenary.edu or 869-5702.

Amnesty International

Centenary's newly activated Amnesty International chapter will meet on Tuesday, October 2nd, at 11:10 am in Magale Library Room 5 (basement).

Relating all its work and activism back to the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Amnesty International works to free political prisoners, promote freedom of conscience and expression, and end discrimination. Its projects vary widely from drawing attention to individual human rights abuses such as the Jena 6 to promoting peacekeepers to end the genocide in Darfur.

Sometimes I feel that as students we become so involved with our classes and extracurricular activities that we forget to pay much attention to the world beyond our campus and what we can do to improve it and the lives of those who are not as lucky as us. First, I hope that Centenary's Amnesty International chapter will encourage the Centenary community to look beyond our campus and realize that not everyone's rights are respected world-wide. More specifically, this semester we'll encourage students to understand the underlying issues and causes of Sudanese government-sponsored conflict in Darfur and what can be done to stop it. At the same time, we will have letter-writing campaigns to focus on smaller-scale, individual abuses that need our immediate attention. I hope Centenary's AI group will convey the message that although Centenary students may be a town, country, or continent away from certain human rights abuses, we are not powerless to stop them. We have a voice, and if we and other Amnesty members world-wide speak loudly enough to governments and organizations, they will listen and abuses around the world will stop!

-Megan Ottesen, President of Amnesty International, Centenary Chapter, mottesen@centenary.edu

Group Side-by-Side offers service and awareness to the Centenary community

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

Centenary's newest community service organization is taking students by storm. Side-By-Side, according to its Facebook group, offers students "no meetings, no obligations, just service."

The mission of Side-By-Side is to "build mutually enhancing relationships across socio-economic classes, ethnic groups, and cultural backgrounds, serve others with an aim toward increasing their standard of living, and to raise awareness about social inequalities locally and globally."

Side-By-Side is always looking for new members to help them serve the community. Ashley Hart, a member of the organization board, says that she had wanted to get more involved with community services and activities.

"Side-By-Side allows me to help those in our society as well as other communities in need. We have a wide range of services that we are performing this year and this allows me to branch out into many different types of community assistance rather than focusing on one particular aspect."

In high school, Hart did a lot of community service, and when she came to Centenary, she looked into organizations to get involved in. She found out that Side-By-Side allows her to help the community in the way she wants.

Side-By-Side recently had its first event on September 20, 2007 - the Jena 6 rally, held in Jena, LA. Partnering with Dr. Demerath's Race and Ethnicity class, they traveled down to the rally to experience first-hand one problem that our community is fighting.

Coming up for SBS on September 29, 2007, is Fuller Build Work Day. They will meet in front of James at 8:30 Saturday morning and work until noon. Visit www.fullerbuild.org for more information on this event.

Also, get excited about bringing water to Kenya, "Trick-or Eat" with Amnesty International, a weekend hurricane-relief trip to New Orleans from November 16 to 19, and Homeless Awareness Night on November 13. Location for Homeless Awareness Night is TBA, but prepare for a night of learning about the homeless situation in the world and having fun while doing it.

If anyone is interested in being on Side-By-Side's planning committee or wants to know how they can get involved, email jbouso@centenary.edu or visit the Facebook group.

GET INVOLVED WITH SIDE-BY-SIDE and be SOCIALLY AWARE AND ACTIVE!

Our next event will be on Saturday, September 29th with the Fuller Center for Housing in Allendale, Shreveport.

WE WILL MEET IN FRONT OF JAMES
AT 8:30 A.M. SATURDAY and work from 9-12.

The work involves different areas of construction depending on what they need, but you don't have to have any skills! They will teach you everything you need to know!

The Allendale community has been one of the most poverty-stricken and crime-ridden areas of Shreveport for decades. Founded in the wake of Katrina, The Fuller Center for Housing has dedicated its efforts to providing adequate housing for New Orleans evacuees and current residents of Allendale. Blocks of brand new shot-gun homes are the result of these efforts and a lot of work from volunteers like us! Because of the Fuller Center and Shreveport-Bossier Community Renewal, Shreveport has actually become a nation-wide model for community restoration! During the second annual "Blitz Build" last week, 350 volunteers from all over the country came to Shreveport and built 9 brand new homes. We will probably do some finish-up work on the houses that were built by the Blitz Build last week.

WE HOPE YOU CAN COME! IT'S AMAZINGLY REWARDING WORK!

Be sure to wear work clothes (something comfortable you don't mind getting dirty and closed-toed shoes).

To learn more about the Fuller Center, visit www.fullercenter.org. To learn more about SIDE-BY-SIDE, visit our facebook group page, or contact Jennifer Bouso at jbouso@centenary.edu

Ticker: National & local news in brief

The investigation into the misdirecting of six nuclear warheads to Barksdale Air Force Base continues. A report on the incident was due on September 15th, but Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne stated that the report had been delayed to allow further and more thorough inquiry.

Clearwater, Florida, accepted its role as the Mecca of Scientology, according to Mayor Frank Hibbard. The Church of Scientology owns about 12 buildings in the Gulf Coast city and about 12,000 scientologists have residence there.

The editor-in-chief of Colorado State University's student newspaper, David McSwane, could face disciplinary action and even forced resignation for publishing a column that said "Taser this: F**k Bush."

Halo 3 was released on Tuesday, the most recent addition to what is arguably the most popular first-person shooter video game series on the market. In terms of games, Halo 3 surpassed Spiderman 3 as the "biggest entertainment launch in history," according to a Microsoft announcement released Wednesday on GamePro.com. The game took in over $170 million in just the first 24 hours of release.

The Magna Carta, a document issued in 1215 delineating certain rules of common law and civil liberties, **is being auctioned off by Sotheby's.** The famous document, of which there are few copies, is expected to fetch at least $20 million. The Magna Carta is often cited as an influence for the modern U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Meet Cyrielle Garnier, an Ecology major from France who plans to save the world

Tuan Tran
Staff Writer

Conglomerate: Can you introduce yourself?

Cyrielle: My name is Cyrielle Garnier. I'm French and I'm nineteen. I like swimming and reading. My major is Biology and Ecology. I want to "save the world".

Congo: "Save the world?" Oh, so you will be a hero?

Cyrielle: No, I don't want to be a hero. I mean I want to protect the environment.

Congo: I see. It's a really great way of thinking. And you said you liked reading books - what kinds of books do you like?

Cyrielle: I like scientific books and love stories, especially when they are combined.

Congo: I see. I know that the French culture is very romantic, so are you a romantic girl?

Cyrielle: Yes, I am. And you are right, France is romantic, much more than America. For example, boys here are not very romantic.

Congo: Yep, because they are American, not French. So, can you tell us your real-life personal romance story?

Cyrielle: My story? Oh, let me see… the summer before, I studied during daytime and my boyfriend worked at night, so we didn't have much time together. One night, I fell asleep without turning off the light outside my doom room. In the morning when I woke up, I saw a sweet note with a beautiful flower in front of my door. I was so surprised and so happy. My boyfriend finished his work at 5 a.m. and he dropped by just for me.

Congo: Oh, that's so sweet. May I ask you what was in the note?

Cyrielle: "Is the light for me?" and something else – it's the secret.

Congo: I understand. So, do you miss your boyfriend and your family?

Cyrielle: Yes. I miss them a lot. I call my family every weekend and my boyfriend every day.

Congo: You call your family once a week but you call your boyfriend once a day?

Cyrielle: Yeah, but…

Congo: It's alright. I understand. I call my girlfriend every day, too. Are there a lot of differences between here and France?

Cyrielle: Yeah. The first thing is the food - there is no variety here. We have the same kind of food everyday. There is no yogurt in the cafeteria, only a few kinds of vegetables, fruit and cheese. I especially miss French bread and butter. And second, the students that are in the same year in France study the same courses so it's easier for us to know each other. Here we choose classes, so some people I only meet twice per week. It makes it more difficult to know your classmates.

Congo: How about the things that are similar? What's similar?

Cyrielle: Nothing is similar.

Congo: Nothing is similar? So, how do you like the life here so far?

Cyrielle: I like it. I enjoy some differences, such as the people. The people here are much more friendly and open. Here, you can see people smiling with you, saying "hi, how are you, what's up" even when you don't know them. It never happens in France.

Congo: I see. That's a part of American culture. Do you think you will stay here longer?

Cyrielle: No, I think I will enjoy it more if I stay here for four months and some time later come back for vacation. I want to finish my studies somewhere in Northern Europe. You know, the more I travel, the more I learn about myself.

Congo: Yeah. And now, the very last question. How will you feel when you leave Centenary?

Cyrielle: I will miss the people from here for sure. I would like to stay in touch with everybody and come to visit sometime. And all of you are welcome to come to France.

Advice from Allison:
On breasts & stray dogs

Dear Allison,

I am interested in getting a breast augmentation. My doctor suggested that it would be a good option for me. I'm worried about the procedure, though. What should I do?

- Bothered Boobs

Dear Boobs,

Upon reading your concern, I couldn't help but wonder what kind of doctor you're seeing. If this is your dentist urging the procedure, I would suggest getting a new dentist.

If you are only interested in getting a breast augmentation because a doctor told you to, then I'd advise against it. Sure, big breasts may be attractive now, but I hear that boney sternums are making their first comeback since the Great Depression.

If a larger chest would make you feel more self-confident, then go ahead and do it. Maybe with that kind of self confidence you won't need to write to an advice column to solve your problems.

Dear Allison,

There is this guy from my Physics class who doesn't really have any friends. I decided I'd be really nice and sit with this guy at lunch one day in the Caf but now this guy won't leave me alone! How can I shake this guy without looking like a jerk?

-Phrustrated Physicist

Dear Phrustrated,

This sounds like a textbook case of Stray Dog Syndrome, which is also known as SDS. It will be rather difficult to get rid of this guy in a nice way, but a few tried and true methods have been known to work.

Metaphorically, like with a stray dog who will not leave your neighborhood, stop "feeding" him. If your stray "dog" is no longer being awarded the attention he wants from you, he will move on to another person.

If ignoring this guy doesn't do the trick, the next best thing is to take him for a long drive way out in the country and leave him at a farmhouse with a big yard.

Do you have a problem and need Allison's help? Send your issues to Campus Box 202 or e-mail Allison at acormier@centenary.edu

Conglomerate Special Report: The Jena Six

Editor's note: Last Thursday, September 20th, a group of Centenary faculty, staff, and students traveled down to Jena to attend an organized rally for Mychal Bell, one of the Jena Six. Bell was scheduled to be sentenced that day, but a judge threw out his conviction on the basis that he should be tried as a juvenile, not an adult (as he was). Just this Wednesday, Governor Kathleen Blanco announced that Bell will be tried in juvenile court. The Reverend Al Sharpton announced Thursday that bail was being posted for Bell ($45,000). The following three pages contain anecdotes and pictures from three students who attended the rally.

Recent news:

The FBI started investigating an "anti-Jena 6" website, which is littered with white supremacist messages (and swastikas) and claims to have the addresses of some of the Jena 6. FBI New Orleans chapter agent Shelia Thorne was quoted on CNN.com as saying the website "essentially calls for their lynching" through white vigilante justice.

JUSTICE FOR ALL
Welcome to Jena
LaSalle Printing & Office Supply
Hamm
SENAT
DISTRICT

Photo courtesy of Lori Von Pingel.

Jena Journal: Even in 2007, racism is far from dead - it's next door

Lori Von Pingel
Staff Writer

Before going to the Jena protest rally on Thursday, September 20th, I wasn't sure what to expect. I had been following the story of the Jena 6 casually on the national news for the last couple of weeks, shaking my head, and not really thinking much else about the town, these boys, and the implications of this case.

When I learned, about a week before the rally, that Dr. Demerath was taking his Race and Ethnicity class, I thought, "Well, that could be interesting, but it's too much trouble to try to go. I mean, who would want to get up at 3:30 (the time the bus left for Jena) in the morning anyway?"

Then one day, sitting in an Amnesty International meeting—a group that is devoted to defending human rights around the world and in the U.S.—as we talked about Darfur, Katrina, and various other atrocities, it occurred to me. What am I doing? This is a chance to do something rather than just read about it online or in the newspaper.

Pumped up by my sudden revelation that political activism isn't dead, I packed my PB & Js and water, put on my black shirt (the color we were supposed to wear for the protest), and carried my activist self to the bus at 3:30 a.m. on Thursday morning to join the 48 other brave souls willing to get up at such an hour.

We arrived in Jena at 6:30 a.m. without much trouble, despite rumors of road closings and bus permits. The first part of the protest was held in a baseball park about two miles from the courthouse in downtown Jena. Following the "pep rally" in the park, we were scheduled to march the two miles to the Courthouse—the scene of Mychal Bell's hearing the following day.

As we walked into the park at about 7 a.m., there were definitely several hundred people milling about, while a DJ on a stage in the middle of the field played music and sang chants, songs, cheers, etc. to get the crowd pumped up for the day's protest. The first thing I felt as I walked onto the field was my face—my white skin.

Several of my classmates and I were among a very small percentage of the white people who attended the rally. For probably the first time in my life, I was a minority. The reporters scattered around the field noticed, and many of them hounded us, asking us where we were from and why we were there. One of the NAACP speakers, at one point during his rally speech, thanked everyone from all different races for coming—white, red, yellow—and several of the bystanders around us clapped and said "thank you". For the most part, we were accepted.

I hope that my experience being a minority for the six hours I was there helped me to understand to some small extent what it is like for minorities on a daily basis. However, being accepted as I was, I could not imagine what it would feel like to see a noose hanging from a tree, knowing that it was directed at me for something I cannot help—my skin color.

Brushing my skin color aside as much as possible, I chanted with the others in cheers, shouting "No justice! No peace!" and "Enough is enough!" I listened to several speakers, including Jesse Jackson, talk of injustice, racism, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, and the Jena 6. It was obvious that this fight was not isolated, but one to be added to the long list of fights that African-Americans have endured since this country's beginning.

By the time we started lining up for the march around 10 a.m., there were several thousand people in the park, with more buses pulling up from cities like Houston and Atlanta. The march was relatively calm and felt more like a migration than a protest. But in a way, it was a migration—a migration back to the realization that racism still exists in America.

I walked next to young black girl who attended the same high school as the Jena 6. She was quiet, and didn't really want to talk much about the situation. So, we walked side by side for the entire march with a quiet understanding that I was there for her and she was there for me.

For many, this rally was about the freedom of the Jena 6, but for most, including me, this rally was much more. It was an awakening from a slumber of complacency, a realization of what it means to be a minority, and a reminder that racism is not dead—it is next door.

Opinion: Regardless of race or ethnic background, we are all the Jena Six

Rachel Powell
Guest Contributor

As a gay rights activist, I was struck by the severe and blatant absence of white people at the Jena 6 rally last week. A seemingly random connection, you think? Not when one considers that white patriarchy oppresses gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people just as it oppresses African-American men and women—and for that matter, lots of other minority groups. In a true sense, we all—black, white, Hispanic, Asian—had a stake in that Jena 6 rally.

Sure, some of the chants shouted by the crowd may have seemed exclusive. "Until the 6 are free, neither are we!" As a white person standing in the park, I initially asked myself, "Do I yell this, too? Will everyone look at me like I'm crazy? Worse, will it make some people angry?" I was already all too aware of both my whiteness and my "outsiderness," and I certainly didn't want to offend anyone when I was trying to show unity with them.

But the chant held truth that even a white person couldn't deny. Our criminal "justice" system in America disproportionately hurts African-Americans—consider the overrepresentation of blacks in jails and prisons, and consider also the fact that there are more black men incarcerated than in college. While blacks get the most obvious harm done to them, whites, and all other American citizens, are also harmed by this system.

Where do we keep the talent that can enhance our corporations and organizations, our neighborhood theaters, our sports teams, our school faculties, and our police and fire forces? In jail. Where do we keep the young talent that, through proper education and care, could become tomorrow's leaders? In jail.

Despite the tossing of Mychal Bell's adult conviction days before the rally, he was still not able to return to school to finish his education, or return to the football team that likely would have led to a college scholarship, nor was he able to join us at the park or for the march, because he was still sitting in jail. As I marched down to the Jena courthouse, I wondered where his brothers and sisters in humanity were.

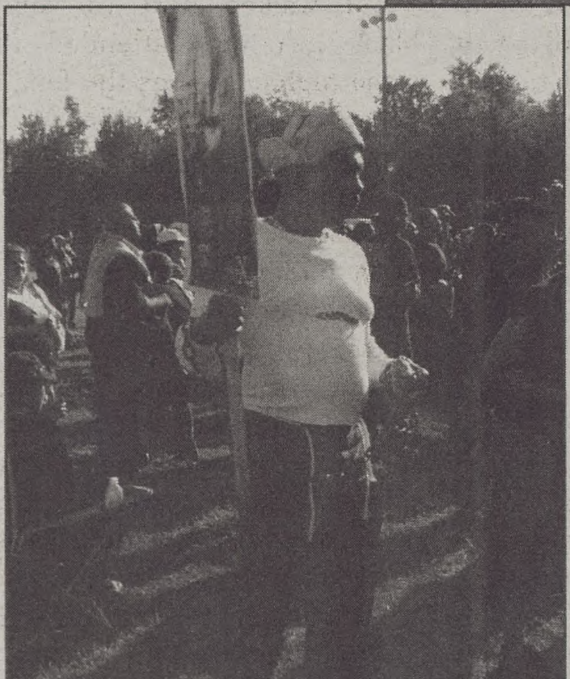
The rally on September 20th was not the last rally for the Jena 6. There will be more as Mychal Bell's case continues and as the other boys work their way through an unjust system. I plan to be at each of them, and I hope that next time I see more white people, more Hispanic and Asian people, more gay people, more "outsiders." The Jena 6 case is making history as it reveals injustice, and when America looks back in 50 years, let no one say, "The Jena 6 had nothing to do with me."

right: Protesters from all over the country march together through Jena in support of justice. Marchers took buses from as far as California and Georgia for the rally.

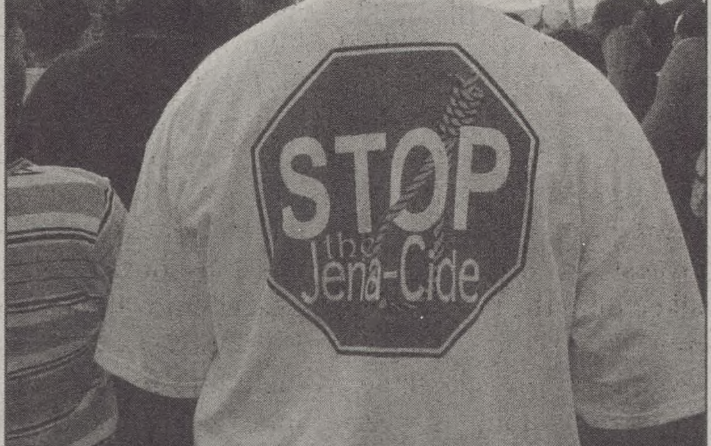
below left: A man dressed as a slave caught the attention of local and international cameras - a photo similar to this one taken by a CNN correspondent made the news site's "Photo of the Day" feature.

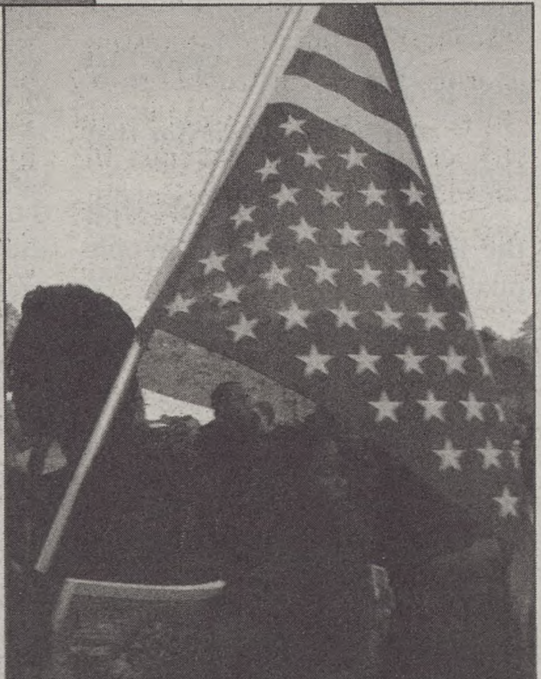
below right: American flags littered the crowds at the rally, perhaps indicative of the sentiment that this civil liberties issue is one all races should rally behind.

below middle: A man shows off one of the many logo t-shirts found among Jena Six supporters: "Stop the Jena-Cide."



Photos contributed by Rachel Powell.





Opinion: Too few other races are showing support for the broader fight against injustice

PLAQUEMINES
PARISH

Tia Landrum
Staff Writer

After a decent bus ride to Jena, Louisiana, we reached the protest. T-shirts, banners, signs, and items for sale were everywhere. Demonstrators wore chains and slave clothing. Immediately, we found a stage with hundreds of audience members enthusiastically participating in a song.

"Go tell the governor that time is winding up.

Go tell the governor that time is winding up.

So we're in trouble with the land, why don't the people take a stand?

Time is winding up."

The song continued with verses substituting "governor" with "prosecutor," "Jena," "the mayor," and sticking out like a sore thumb, "Bush."

The protest was called the Jena 6 rally, which was meant to fight against the prosecution of six African-American high school students who attacked a white student and were cruelly and unusually punished for it. Though the seven boys were the reason I chose to go to Jena, and were most likely the reason for many who showed up, the rally was not focused on their release. Instead, hidden agendas were around every corner.

The most prevalent hidden agenda was an ironic one. Nearly every one of the 12,000 people who attended the rally was black. As a Caucasian individual who traveled to Jena with five of my friends, four of which are as "white" as I am, I felt it a pity that racism had seemed to win the day with so few other races showing support for the fight against injustice. However, as the day wore on, I saw more than just two groups of people in attendance.

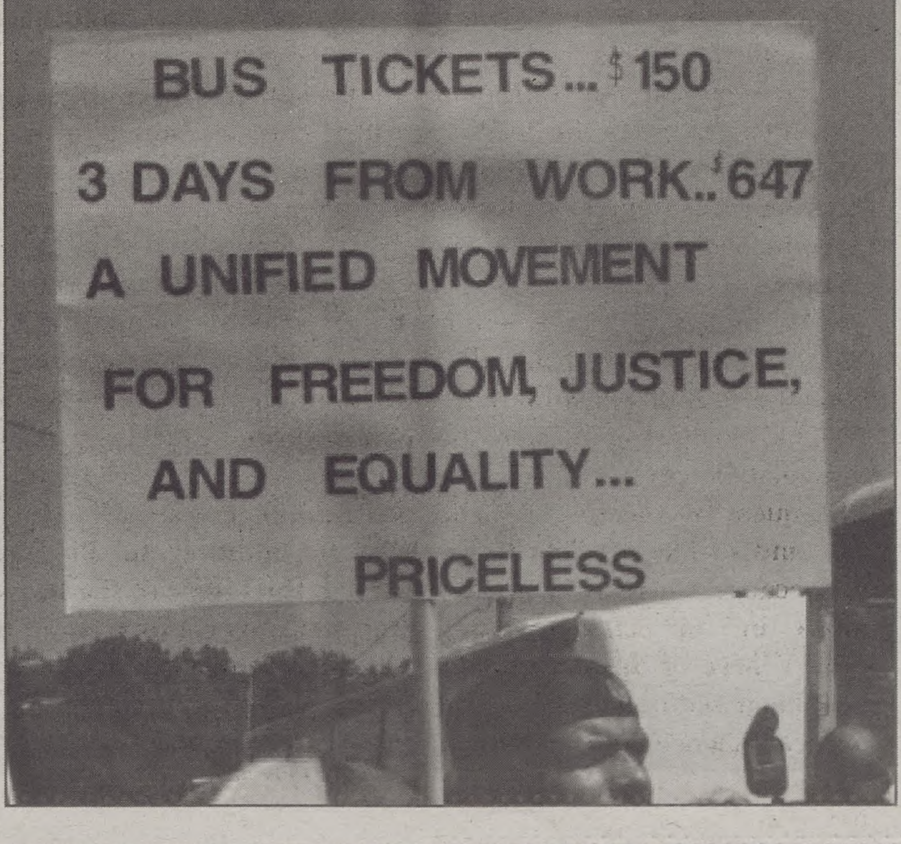
"We picked your cotton, now leave us alone. We built this nation," read a sign held by a very nicely dressed light-skinned African-American woman. The hidden agenda in this case was pushing for racism in an opposite form. Surely, treating other races poorly is unacceptable. But most of the people in attendance at this rally were more than happy to push for a further separation between white and black people. From the vehement voices ardently singing the "Black National Anthem" to shirts that read a variety of segregating slogans like "Red – blood. Green – land. Black – the color of our people" on a shirt featuring the African-American flag, this was evident. I noted the use of the word "our," as though we, as a different race, were not there to support them despite our light complexions.

Aside from many unkind words, including those from the Black Panther Party that very clearly regarded me as a "Klan" member due to the color of my skin, there were many positive and focused African-Americans attending. With shirts saying things like "Hate is easy. Love takes courage," and "It's not about black or white. It's about justice," many individuals were welcoming and glad to see us there and regarded us with respect and the equality we had hoped we were helping to perpetuate.

The rally was obviously not our fight, as we were not "Black" versus "White," and had no way of completely understanding the position of the majority. This set us apart, but there were many opportunities to discuss our views openly with strangers. The shame of the matter was in the censoring necessary to remain at peace with the majority, but my friends and I had many engaging conversations where we found opposition of the most adamant kind as well as mutual understanding despite race.

Top left: Civil rights activist Jesse Jackson was one among a number of famous black leaders present in Jena last Thursday. Photo by Rachel Powell.

below: A protest sign. Photo by Assistant Professor of Education Robert Prickett.



Centenary celebrates Constitution Day with renowned professor Lee Epstein

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Cupcakes and pocket constitutions may not sound like the most titillating of combinations to most college students, but James King was "thrilled" at the turnout for Constitution Day.

September 17th is traditionally when the federal holiday is celebrated, as it was on that date in 1787 when the delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the Constitution that we have today. Centenary College held a convocation in the day's honor on September 20th with Dr. Lee Epstein as the guest speaker.

Epstein is a Professor of Law and Political science at Northwestern University in Chicago. She has edited and authored numerous books on the subject of constitutional law and is one of "the leading legal scholars in the U.S. today," according to Centenary Professor of Political Science Dr. Rodney Grunes.

When James King, Senior Political Science major, learned he would be attending a conference in Chicago last semester, he immediately contacted Epstein to request a meeting. "She was kind of like a celebrity for me because we read all of her books in our classes," King said. (Three of Epstein's books have been required reading for Political Science courses here at Centenary.) "The meeting went great, and before I left, I asked if she would be interested in visiting Centenary for a convocation." After continued correspondence over the summer, Epstein agreed to speak at Constitution Day.

During her visit to Centenary, Epstein had dinner with members of the Centenary chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national Political Science honor society. King, who is also president of the honor society, then introduced her at the convocation later that night. Epstein's speech covered the current Supreme Court – led by Bush appointee Chief Justice Roberts – and its own constitutional interpretation. She also fielded questions from students and faculty over recent controversial decisions, like the 2000 Bush v. Gore, which essentially decided the presidential election. Epstein called the decision a "win-win situation" for the Supreme Court.

"Constitution Day is very important for several reasons," King said. "Students take for granted the liberties that they're guaranteed under the Constitution, such as freedom for races and religions to institutionally coexist."

In addition to Pi Sigma Alpha, the Office of the Provost and the Convocations Committee made Epstein's visit possible.

Left to right: Dr. Lee Epstein, James King, Dr. Rodney Grunes. Photo courtesy of Amanda Russell.

Residence Life answers questions about room consolidation

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

During the first month of the semester, the Centenary College Residence Life Department conducts Consolidation. According to Kevin Wagner, the Assistant Dean of Student Life, Consolidation is basically consolidating Residence Life space in order to use it efficiently.

This process also allows residents the opportunity to buy out their entire room if they choose to pay an extra cost. Formal Consolidation for Centenary College Residence Life occurred between September 9-16. Though Consolidation has passed, a lot of students expressed confusion and frustration about the process.

Does Consolidation have to be such a big headache to residents who are without roommates but do not want to buy out their rooms? According to Wagner, Consolidation can be a very simple process. "A lot of students going through Consolidation don't communicate with me", says Wagner.

The appropriate procedure would be for the resident to contact Wagner and inform him whether they intend to buy out their room as a single, or whether they would like to be placed with another resident.

The biggest issue students involved in Consolidation face is finding a new roommate. It often happens that a resident's roommate withdraws from Centenary before the semester begins leaving an empty spot in the room.

Wagner advises that residents contact him within the two weeks prior to Consolidation to receive names of other residents also seeking roommates. It is best to contact Wagner as early as possible for a better chance at being paired with a compatible roommate.

The potential to be involved in Consolidation begins at Room Lottery, Wagner says. He advises students to be sure their roommates are planning to stay at Centenary the whole year when deciding who their next roommate will be.

Be aware of your roommate's intent regarding residence life and of their plans to remain a student at Centenary. It could save you from having to participate in Consolidation.

Take My Advice

Academic Resource Center for Students (arcs)

Writing Lab	**Magale Library 1A** Sunday - Thursday	**8:00-10:00pm**
Math Lab	**Wright Math Building** Sunday - Thursday	**6:00-8:00pm**
Subject Labs	**Magale Library 1A**	**6:00-9:00pm**
Biology	Monday & Tuesday	
Economics	Monday & Tuesday	
French	Sunday & Monday	
German	Thursday	
History	Sunday & Wednesday	
Physics	Thursday	
Political Science	Sunday & Wednesday	
Psychology	Thursday	
Religious Studies	Monday & Tuesday	
Spanish	Wednesday	

Learning and all ARCS services are free to all Centenary Students. If you have any questions contact Dr. Meg Webber or Dr. Kim VanHoosier-Carey at arcs@centenary.edu

www.centenary.edu/arcs

Meet Kate Valentine, Lecturer in Biblical Studies and Ancient Greek Religions

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Conglomerate: Can you please introduce yourself briefly to our readers?

Valentine: Sure. I'm Kate Valentine. I'm a graduate student, here for one semester to teach in the Religious Studies department. My field is biblical studies, but while I'm here, I'm covering a wider facet of religious studies.

Congo: What subjects do you currently teach?

Valentine: I teach Introduction to Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament, but we call it Hebrew Bible here), Introduction to Christianity; and Ancient Greek Religions.

Congo: Why did you choose Centenary College?

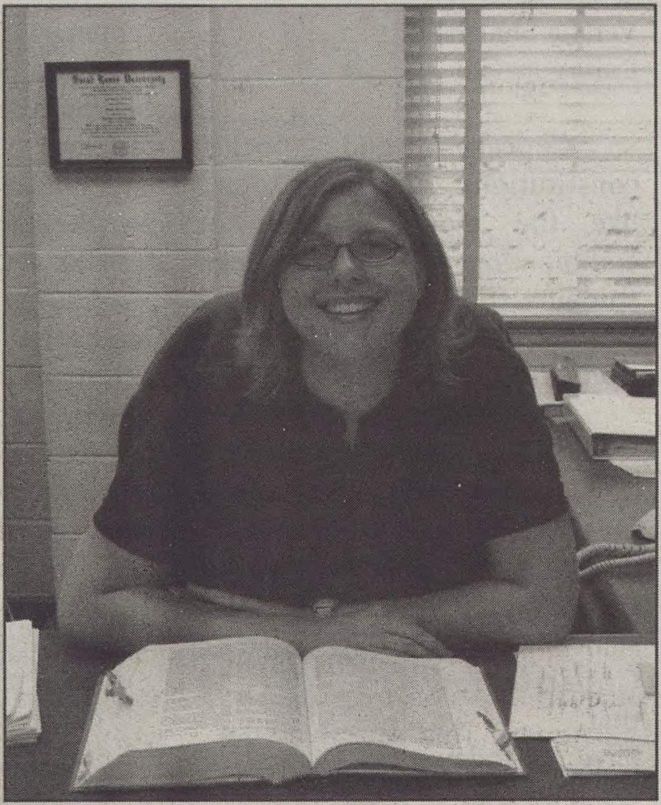
Valentine: Centenary kind of chose me. I'm an alum and I've kept up with the department. Since I've been away, I've gotten advice from the professors here about research topics in graduate school and we've become colleagues over the years.

They needed someone to come in and fill in the gaps for a semester while Dr. Huff is on sabbatical. Susan Brayford is the dean and David (Otto) has a reduced teaching load, so they wanted someone to come in, and it seemed like a good fit. So, we both chose each other.

Congo: What is your impression of Centenary so far, mainly from the teaching perspective?

Valentine: From a teaching perspective, it is actually a little different being on the other side of the desk. So far, I'm delighted to be back. The caliber of students here is high.

I've been very pleased with that. It's kind of nice to, you know, sing the alma mater again. There have been changes since I've been gone, so it's not like I'm stepping back onto an identical campus.



So, for me, it's very nice to see Centenary progressing, and changing, and evolving, starting new projects and bringing in different kinds of students and different kinds of faculty. So it's very nice to see that it is not exactly the same place that it was.

Congo: What will be your biggest challenge teaching here?

Valentine: Well, I'm only here for one semester, so that is probably the biggest challenge because I like the environment, I like the students, and it'll be hard to go back.

So I'd like to be here and be able to continue and start a project one semester and finish it the next semester. That is probably the biggest challenge.

Congo: What was your college experience like as a student?

Valentine: I had a great college experience. Very typical, I suppose. I was here four years. I was a sociology major.

I participated in the Choir. I participated in what was then Church Careers. I mean, I had a great experience. Enough to go back and pursue an academic career.

Congo: What are your hobbies outside of class?

Valentine: I have hobbies? Well, I'm a beginning knitter and I read science fiction. Well, I read, write, and watch science fiction.

Congo: What are your pet peeves, especially in class?

Valentine: Latecomers and chit-chat.

Congo: Any advice for students, either in your classes or in general?

Valentine: My general advice would be that college and higher education is not about what you know, but more about what you don't know. So a class is supposed to provide a safe environment that challenges you and makes you feel uncomfortable. Only then are you are getting your money's worth.

Some students sail through college and are never challenged, and I think are not getting what they need out of college. Every class has some sort of learning opportunity, regardless of what the subject matter is.

Photo by Mindy McKoin. This concludes The Conglomerate's introduction of the new 2007-2008 faculty and staff!

Do you love movies?

If so, the Centenary Film society would like to invite
you to join us for free movies
on Tuesday and Thursday nights.
Movies start at 7pm
and are screened in Carlile auditorium.

On October 2nd and 3rd we are showing

Dixie Chicks: Shut up and Sing

As the war in Iraq began, the pop/country band Dixie Chicks were at the top of their game. When lead singer Natalie Maines made an off-the-cuff, anti-Bush statement, their launch into huge success was massively derailed. The Dixie Chicks became the target of a massive right-wing attack. This gripping documentary is far more than a music bio film. It explores and challenges just what it means to be an American Star, and how that role fits into the American psyche.

"Barbara Kopple and Cecilia Peck's film is a fascinating look at the intersection of commerce, celebrity, and controversy."
— Wesley Morris, Boston Globe

Meet Jeff Agnew, Centenary's new Lecturer in Geology

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Conglomerate: Can you please introduce yourself to our readers?

Agnew: My name is Jeff Agnew. I grew up in a small town in Michigan. I went to a community college in that town. After that, I transferred to Central Michigan University and that is where I received my bachelor's degree in Geology. I also had a master's in Geology from the University of Florida and I am currently finishing my PhD. at Louisiana State.

Congo: What subjects do you currently teach?

Agnew: This semester, I am teaching Environmental Geology and a physical geology lab.

Congo: Why did you choose Centenary?

Agnew: Primarily because it was a great opportunity and I was looking for a place to teach because that is what I enjoy doing most. At Centenary, the faculty are concerned about teaching and, especially the geology department, have the resources that you wouldn't expect at such a small college. The students have a lot that is available to them and it would just be a great place to continue doing what I love doing.

Congo: What is your impression of Centenary so far?

Agnew: My first impression has been great. That is a bit of a follow-up from the last question and again, there is so much that is available to the students here that they wouldn't have anywhere else. They have resources similar to a large university but they still have the benefits of the small college where they have small class sizes and a lot of interaction with professors.

Congo: What will be your biggest challenge teaching here?

Agnew: Well, I am finishing up my PhD., so it has been quite a challenge to develop a new course and write my dissertation. But, beyond that, the biggest challenge is really to present the material in a way that students will enjoy, understand, and are able to learn.

Congo: What was your college experience like as a student?

Congo: What are your hobbies outside of class?

Agnew: I like to do anything that is outdoors. So that means I love hiking and gardening, which is why Geology is such a great profession for me, because I can go out and do field work and it is like I am on vacation. It's hard to say this without being insulting, but I can't imagine anything else I would like to do.

Congo: What are you pet peeves, especially in class?

Agnew: One frustration I have is that many students come to class mainly for a grade and I would hope that they would come to class to learn. It is frustrating, and I am not singling out any current students of course, but from my experience, there seem to be a lot of students who do not see the world around them and I look for a way to help them with that and that is certainly one of my goals.

Congo: Any advice for students in your classes?

Agnew: In general, I would say this for all students: you really need to go to the classes and, again, it is a lot about the attitude that you have when you are there. Don't go into the class thinking that I am just here for the grade. Really take that as a good opportunity to learn something. This certainly isn't the only opportunity that students have to learn, but it is one of the best ones and they should certainly take advantage of it.

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Meet the candidates of the 2007 Louisiana gubernatorial election

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

Poverty, crime, healthcare, education and economic development are some of the major issues that will be instrumental in this year's governor's race. As the primary election on October 20th draws near, voters should familiarize themselves with the eleven candidates.

DEMOCRATS

Walter Boasso: "As a member of the Louisiana Senate I have held true to my convictions and worked to represent people... I will not be silenced by the status quo or by those unwilling to embrace a new direction for our state. The challenges are too large and we have no time to waste." (http://www.governorboasso.org/home/)

Walter Boasso, a democrat from St. Bernard Parish, is CEO and President of the Boasso America Corporation, an organization that provides tank maintenance, tank emergency response services, and transportation of goods. Boasso was elected to the Louisiana State Senate in 2003, where he created legislation to prohibit elected officials from receiving campaign contributions from organizations doing business with state retirement agencies.

He also introduced legislation to increase commerce on state waterways, creating the Louisiana Waterways Infrastructure and Development Fund and Bank. Additionally, Boasso also fought to reform state's levee board system. He was awarded Legislator of the Year in 2004 and 2006 by the Alliance for Good Government, a bipartisan non-profit organization.

Boasso's campaign platform is built on a desire to create more jobs, to rebuild New Orleans, to improve education opportunities, to make insurance available to every Louisiana family, and to make healthcare more affordable and accessible.

Foster Campbell: ""I have a plan to move Louisiana forward...I'll invest in our people, in our infrastructure, and in building a new economy with more opportunity for all." (http://fostercampbell.com/)

Democrat Foster Campbell is a Bossier Parish farmer, businessman and elected official from Bossier Parish. He is the owner and operator of Campbell Insurance Agency and Premier Insurance Agency. Campbell has represented northwest Louisiana for 27 years in the Louisiana Senate. In 2002, he was elected to the Public Service Commission, the statewide regulatory agency in charge of public utilities and the oil industry.

As Public Service Commissioner, he persuaded the Federal Communications Commission to set aside $39 million to provide free cellular phones to Hurricane Katrina evacuees. He created the Bossier Educational Excellence Fund for Bossier Parish schools from Louisiana Downs racetrack revenues (raised $12 million raised from racetrack and casino revenues) , and the $1-billion Louisiana Educational Excellence Fund for local schools from the state Tobacco Settlement.

Campbell's platform includes a major fiscal change: eliminating the state income tax. He plans to substitute the revenue received from the income tax by updating the 1921 severance tax on oil and gas produced in Louisiana. Campbell plans to place a 6% user fee on all oil and gas produced, processed, refined, or distributed in Louisiana.

Although Louisiana is now an oil and gas processing state instead of a major producing state, the system created almost 90 years ago collects tax only on minerals made in Louisiana. The creation of a processing fee would no longer allow foreign countries such as Venezuela, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia to use offshore waters and coastal wetlands without charge.

The fee would produce $5.5 billion each year. After eliminating the state income tax and severance tax, Louisiana will gain $1.7 billion in revenue each year. Campbell plans to devote $1 billion a year to restoring coastal wetlands. The remainder of the new funding will be put to other needs such as improving our schools and highway construction.

Vinny Mendoza: "Give me the (Louisiana) National Guard in Iraq, and I could stop the crime problem in 90 days." (http://blog.nola.com/times-picayune/2007/09/alternatives_needed_in_race_ho.html)

Vinny Mendoza, a democrat from Kenner, Louisiana, spent 20 years as an Air Force engineer and logistics coordinator. Mendoza served as the Assistant Inspector General of Air Force in Gulf War and the Department of Defense Director of Far East Mortuary Affairs Program. He also served as Chief of Housing, Morale, Welfare, Recreation Services, Space Warning& Ballistic Missile Early Warning Systems—approximately $30 million in services contract oversight and $40 billion in facilities and equipment.

Mendoza is also the state coordinator for Progressive Democrats of America. He organized the celebration of the 500 years of Hispanic Heritage in Washington, D.C., an event that gathered over one million people.

Mendoza proposes altering our school system by increasing teacher pay, lengthening the school day (8 am to 5 pm), creating a balance between academic subjects, vocational training, and extracurricular activities (1/2 day academics, ½ day martial arts and vocational training), and instituting random drug testing for students and teachers.

Mendoza proposes redeploying Louisiana troops by 25% each year and allowing them to build levees, restore coast, and fight criminals.

He would like to provide "1000-year" levee protection by using the Louisiana National Guard and prison inmates. He advocates restoring the eroding coast, providing free health care for the disabled, children, and senior citizens within four years and all Louisiana residents by 2020. Mendoza believes this can be accomplished by investing the amount spent abroad--80% of resources—at home.

Hardy Parkerson: "I swore one day I'd be another Huey Long." (http://blog.nola.com/times-picayune/2007/09/alternatives_needed_in_race_ho/print.html)

Democrat Hardy Parkerson is lawyer from St. Charles. Parkerson claims to be inspired by former Gov. Huey Long's policies, which provided school books and an education to his father, who grew up poor. Pakerson also describes himself as a Ronald Regan Conservative Democratic Family Forum Christian-Coalition States' Rights candidate.

He served as a former

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, where he taught Evidence and Criminal Procedure. Parkerson is also the President and Chairman of the Board of Regents of Southern Christian University.

Parkerson's campaign platform includes a reduction in the number of laws made each year by the Legislature, which typically passes more than 1,000 bills in a regular session. He also proposes a reduction of taxes and the size of state government. He would like to lower the price of gas--even if that meant removing state taxes from fuel. Parkerson believes the state needs a rapid-transit system linking population centers in Louisiana.

Mary Volentine Smith: "I think he's (Edwin Edwards) been done wrong." (http://blog.nola.com/times-picayune/2007/09/alternatives_needed_in_race_ho/print.html)

Democrat Mary Smith is a retired hairdresser from Winnsboro, Louisiana. Her platform's top priority is winning a presidential pardon for Edwin Edwards, the four-term governor who is currently serving a prison sentence in Oakdale for counts including racketeering, extortion, mail fraud, and wire fraud. Smith believes that Edwards' political experience would help resolve Louisiana's problems.

As one treated for polio in the New Orleans Charity facility, Smith pays special attention to Louisiana hospitals which treat lower-income residents. She proposes upgrades for the Charity Hospital system, and the construction of a new mental hospital in Pineville.

Smith would like to replace Louisiana's aging bridges in order to secure the safety of our citizens. Additionally, Smith plans to fight drug trafficking through the state's ports. Smith also promises to fight gang activities all across Louisiana.

REPUBLICAN

Bobby Jindal: "Corruption in Louisiana is a tradition that must be put to rest – once and for all."(http://www.bobbyjindal.com/)

Republican Piyush "Bobby" Jindal was born in Baton Rouge to Indian immigrants. Jindal was appointed Executive Director of the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare, the Secretary for the Department of Health and Hospitals, and the President of the University of Louisiana System.

He was also elected Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation of Health and Human Services. After an unsuccessful bid for governor in 2003, he was elected to Congress in 2004 and re-elected in 2006.

As U.S. Congressman, Jindal has advocated legislature to allow law abiding citizens to bear arms, to ease financial commitments for state and local school districts recovering from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and to prevent discrimination against churches and faith based groups in disaster relief efforts. Jindal also worked to secure $1.6 billion for education along the Gulf Coast after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Jindal's campaign platform includes improving the state's education system, economic infrastructure, health care system, and instilling real reforms in government. He believes parental role models, neighborhood coordination, and effective judiciary will reduce crime. He proposes tougher laws to keep predators away from children and an initiative to identify and target localized areas of drug/gang activity. He would like to recruit qualified teachers and principals, and improve technology in schools.

Jindal advocates government reform by controlling run-away spending. Jindal would like to improve primary care options, and to provide state-of-the-art medical training. Jindal plans to increase investment opportunities and to create new incentives for businesses. Along with revising economic structure, Jindal would also like to institute ethics reform.

LIBERTARIAN

T. Lee Horne, III: "Laissez les bons temps rouler, et laissez faire!" (http://governor.ws/)

Libertarian T. Lee Horne is a real estate salesman from Franklin. He is the president of Brumby Enterprises, Inc., as well as a member of the Board of Directors of Emerald Land Company. Horne claims he was motivated to enter public service after struggling with governmental problems while settling his father's estate.

Horne's platform revolves around downsizing government and decreasing excess regulations. Horne believes excess regulation and government spending increases unemployment. He plans to create a government with more transparent decision making and less spending. Horne places special emphasis upon the Bill of Rights, claiming he will shut down any agency/activity in executive branch of government which infringes upon those rights.

Horne advocates the reduction of crime by permitting residents of Louisiana to carry weapons to defend themselves, requiring restitution from criminals to their victims, and giving police incentives to emphasize prevention of violent crime. Horne cites the only example of an industrialized nation that has consistently lowered its crime rates since WWII: Japan, which emphasizes restitution to victim.

Horne opposes government interference in economy, he proposes market forces should be left to work on their own. Horne supports public education and advocates a reduction of class sizes. Horne is also a proponent of civil unions to couples regardless of sexual orientation. Horne believes an individual should be free to choose what to ingest, and each is responsible for the outcome of his or her choices. He said he would release all nonviolent drug offenders from state prisons and would allow each parish to make the decision to prohibit certain drugs.

INDEPENDENTS

Belinda Alexandrenko: "I want to work for and with the people of Louisiana." (http://blog.nola.com/times-picayune/2007/09/alternatives_needed_in_race_ho.html)

Belinda Alexandrenko is a Lafayette resident who is running for governor for the third time, after unsuccessful attempts in 1995 and 1999. Alexandrenko is attempting to launch her own political party: the Hope for America party. As election officials do not recognize it as an official party, she will not have a party affiliation listed by her name on the ballot.

Alexandrenko hopes to help the state rebuild and engage in a state of progress from the 2005 hurricanes. She believes that teamwork is the key to solving Louisiana's major problems. Alexandrenko plans to create a new type of leadership that will focus on improving Louisiana

Candidates for October 20 governor primary continued

education standing nationally. She believes that our state's schools have been neglected. Alexandrenko also proposes an improvement of Louisiana health care as well as making health insurance more accessible.

Sheldon Forest: ""I plan to continue in effect all of the good plans that they have right now. I don't plan to come in there and revamp the whole system. I plan to use it like a good used car. We're going to fix what's wrong and drive the rest." (http://www.topix.com/city/duson-la/2007/09/sheldon-forest-runs-for-governor)

Independent Sheldon Forest is a water well driller born in New Orleans and raised in Lafayette. Forest, an independent, says he is not affiliated with any party because "it's time to stop partying around and get to work." Forest's top priority is to eliminate the personal income tax and increase the sales tax. Forest plans to place a state tax on water use at home and businesses. Foster would like the revenue to be used for coastal restoration and emergency work.

Anthony "Tony G" Gentile: "The time has come to place party politics aside and work cooperatively for the betterment of Louisiana. The time has come to elect someone who represents the Interests of the People of Louisiana and not interests of one party or another." (http://www.tonygforgov.com/)

Independent Anthony Gentile, an oil refinery supervisor from Mandeville, says he's running because he doesn't see leadership coming from anywhere else in Louisiana. Gentile proposes advancing our education system, building the infrastructure and increasing health care access for Louisianans and promoting economic development. Gentile believes these goals can be achieved only from a governor not tied to partisanship or burdened by loyalties to political contributors.

Gentile advocates placing a minimum tax on all homeowners in order to help Parish budgets. Gentile said he would advocate insurance reform by introducing legislation that would help LA residents in time of natural disaster. Gentile is a proponent of increasing the state minimum wage to at lease $7 on all full-time positions, as well as increasing school teacher pay. Gentile would like to develop a team of engineers from Louisiana colleges and universities to find and develop alternate fuels.

Gentile also advocates tax breaks for senior citizens; he would like for the sales tax to be reduced by 50% on every purchase under $10,000 for all senior citizens at the age of 60, for sales tax to be eliminated for purchases under $10,000 for all senior citizens at the age of 65, and for all sales tax to be eliminated for senior citizens at the age of 70.

Arthur "Jim" Nichols:

Independent Arthur Nichols of Donaldsonville is the manager of the Sunshine Lounge in Ascension Parish. At 69 years old, he is the oldest candidate in this election. This is Nichols' thirds statewide political race as an independent. He unsuccessfully ran for governor in 1995 and then unsuccessfully ran for the US Senate.

Although Nichols will be listed on the ballot as having no party, he plans to establish a Neutral Party to mediate conflicts between Democrats and Republicans. Nichols hopes to create the Neutral Party on a state level first, and then nationally. Nichols has said he is running his campaign on a budget of $5,000, and refusing donations of more than $500 from any one source.

Nichols plans to improve the image of state public education. He would like to upgrade school buildings. Nichols advocates creating more and better-paying jobs to bring back Louisiana residents who have moved out of state.

John Georges: "I will be a governor for all citizens. The people are ready for a new approach to government that puts their interests as the highest priority. The race for governor should be about leadership, not party. I can unite this deeply divided state and deal with our issues in non-partisan way." (http://www.georgesforgovernor.com/)

John Georges, an Independent from New Orleans, is the CEO of Imperial Trading Company, the largest wholesale food distributor in Louisiana. Georges also owns an offshore oil services company and an amusement game supply company. Georges has served on the Louisiana Board of Regents for six years.

He has served as a trustee for Crimestoppers, the President of Holy Trinity Cathedral, and a member of the New Orleans Business Council. Additionally, Georges has served as President of the YPO(Young Presidents Organization), and on Tulane President's Council.

Georges plans to improve education by making pre-kindergarden available to all four-year olds, developing a "values" curriculum(honesty, diligence) creating a special needs program within the department of education, and adding incentives for teachers. He also wants high schools to offer career and technical training. Georges would like to decrease crime by redirecting out state police to be out on the streets patrolling and investigating. He plans to increase cooperation and communication among law enforcement authorities.

Georges would like to create an elite task force to provide extra personnel and equipment to local law enforcement in an area experiencing a crime surge. He also advocates intervention with juveniles and adult first offenders. He would like to hire more prosecutors, and to review elderly inmates. He plans to stop mixing career criminals with first time offenders. Georges is a proponent of monitoring sex offenders more closely as well.

Georges plans to improve health care by moving to a public-private collaboration in which private providers, non-profit hospitals, and community based clinics treat all people and work with medical schools to provide education. Georges also plans to initiate insurance reform with an insurance summit in which insurance laws and regulations are reviewed. Georges said, "My agenda for Louisiana, which more and more voters are embracing, calls for ethical reform responsibility, a restructuring of the tax code, and increased efficiency."

Note: Because the ballots have already been finalized, *Vincent Castillo will still appear on the ballot despite being disqualified from the governor's race for two felony convictions* for attempted extortion in Jefferson Parish.

FILM INDUSTRY LOCAL NEWS

Tia Landrum
Staff Writer

In production in Shreveport:

"Pulse 2: Afterlife"

Productions slated for Shreveport:

"Madness," a horror flick about the twisted ransom demands of an insane kidnapper who forces his former psychologist to commit unspeakable crimes in order to earn his wife's freedom back

"My Beautiful Mistake"

"The Poison Rose"

"Wonderful World"

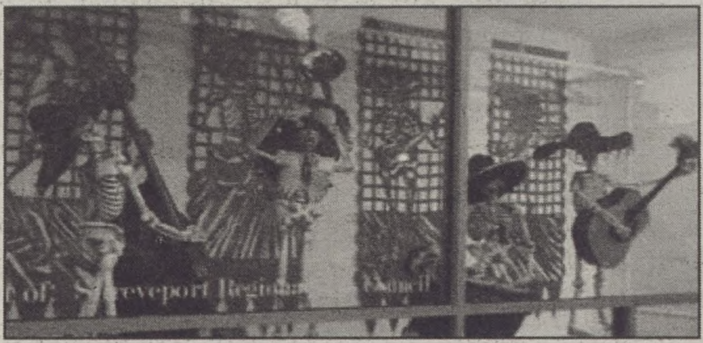
Auditions:

Call-backs for "Wonderful World" were Thursday.

Newsflash:

Several films have been pulled from production in Louisiana due to the racial controversy in Jena, LA. Among the producers who have made this decision is Stephen Ryder, President of Metropolis Films in New York. "Pending action on the part of the people and the government of the State of Louisiana regarding the events in Jena, all plans for operations and/or investment in the State of Louisiana by this corporation and its contractors have been suspended," Ryder said.

ArtSpace exhibit showcases unique local pieces in honor of the "Dia de los Muertos"



Michelle Junot
Staff Writer

If you are looking for something fun to do for FREE, check out the "Dia de los Muertos" exhibit at ArtSpace in downtown Shreveport. This exhibit is in honor of the Latin American "Day of the Dead" festival, a holiday celebrated by the people to honor their dead ancestors. The exhibit began September 15 and will run until November 3.

"Dia de los Muertos" features many different artistic mediums, such as oil on canvas, bas-relief pieces, and a variety of sculpture. While there are some pieces for sale, most of the artwork on display is on loan from other museums and exhibits. Most of the pieces feature vibrant colors and animated skeletons. Even the decorative display cases for the artwork seem to "pop" against their surroundings.

In addition to artwork celebrating Day of the Dead, ArtSpace is also displaying "Las Ofrendas." This exhibit is a collection of local artwork in honor and in memory of deceased artists just as Dia de los Muertos honors a family's deceased ancestors. These pieces are all very unique, yet they all contain a similar theme with the rest of the exhibit in both color and style.

This exhibit also features a variety of other activities, including storytelling and cooking classes. For a calendar of events, go to the ArtSpace website or stop by for a visit.

The next exhibit feature at ArtSpace will be "Deck the Halls," beginning November 15 and ending December 29.

ArtSpace is located in downtown Shreveport at 710 Texas Street. They not only bring the public free art exhibits, but they are also available to rent for parties and receptions. For more information about this exhibit or future exhibits, call 318-673-6500 or 318-673-6535, or go to their website, www.shrevearts.org.

Photo by Emily DeLatin.

"The Brave One" brings Jodie Foster back

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

"The Brave One" opened in theatres last weekend and I was one of the first to see it. The key plot points are: a woman and her boyfriend are attacked in New York, boyfriend dies, woman holds grudge, gets a gun, and becomes a vigilante of sorts.

She runs into very dangerous situations, all within a month's time. She witnesses a murder in a convenience store, a "pimp" tries to make her his other "hoe," and she tracks down the men who beat her boyfriend to death. That's not all that happens, but to understand, you must see it for yourself.

Jodie Foster plays Erica Bain, a radio personality who, as she says, "walks the streets of New York."

She buys the gun initially to feel safe, but then uses it to administer justice as judge, jury, and executioner of those who do others harm.

As with cinematography, action-packed movies seem to have the best graphics and makeup. The film shows the audience her torment and pain, and then the criminals' pain as well, but in a different way. At one point in the film, instead of shooting a white-collar criminal, she decides to put a crowbar through his head and push him off a building. Very graphic, I must say, but necessary.

Terrance Howard also stars in this film as the detective in charge of finding and stopping the vigilante killer. He becomes close friends with Erica along the way, trying to help her find out about who killed her boyfriend. He is very believable as Detective Mercer, a by-the-books man who has a soft spot in his heart for Erica. Who knows what may come between them?

Seeing into the mind of a criminal is hard to do, but Foster allows us to come as close as humanly possible. Foster has always been a talented actress, and this movie is no exception. "The Brave One" gives us action, love, justice, and a sense of defiance of the law, but for the right reasons. I give this film a definite four-and-a-half stars and two thumbs up for violent action and steamy drama.

Centenary College's

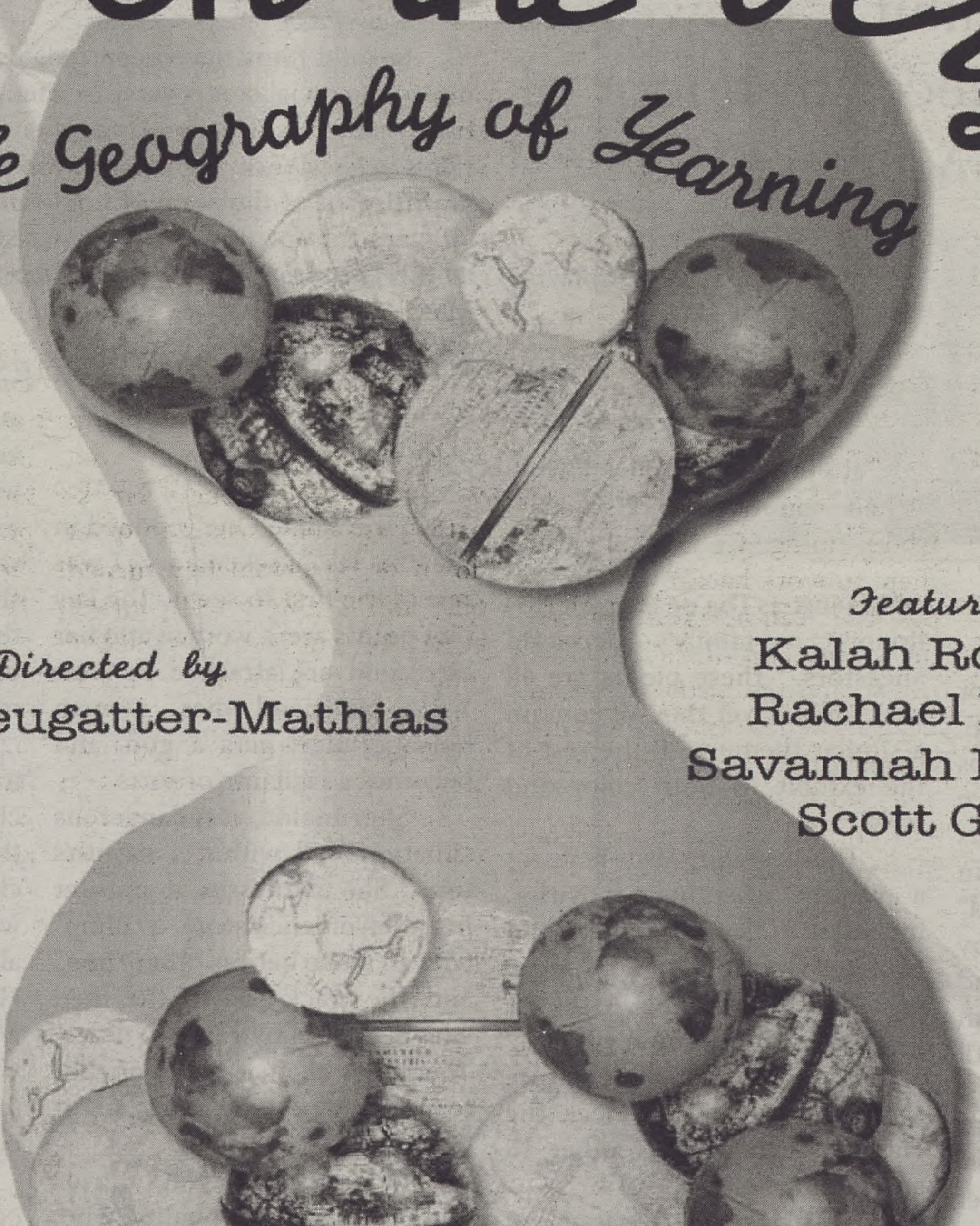
Marjorie Lyons Playhouse

presents

Eric Overmeyer's

On the Verge

or the Geography of Yearning



Directed by

Emily Heugatter-Mathias

Featuring

Kalah Roberts
Rachael Magill
Savannah Baggerly
Scott Gibbs

September 27th thru October 6th

Call the Box Office at (318) 869-5242
for more information and ticket reservations

SPORTS

Dr. Tom Tallach: Ready to take Centenary by storm

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

Centenary students have seen a new face around the Gold Dome this year. The face is of Dr. Tom Tallach, the new Director of the Athletic Department and former Centenary baseball player. Tallach, a native of Hot Springs, Arkansas, graduated from Centenary in 1993 with a little basketball-playing time along with a successful baseball career. Following Centenary, Tallach headed to Texas A&M Commerce where he helped coach the Lions while obtaining both his masters and doctorate. From there he had a short run at Ouachita Baptist, and soon after made his way back to his alma mater, Centenary.

Tallach comes into the AD position ready to encourage his athletes to make good grades and play hard. "I see it as a nice partnership between academics and athletes," Tallach stated. "When you have a B student who's doing C work...I want them to work harder and be the best they can be." This year also marks the end of the Mid-Con league and the birth of Summit League. When asked about the changes that come into effect, Tallach had this to say:

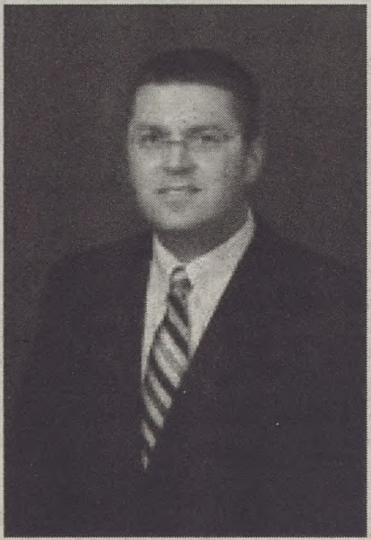


photo courtesy of GoCentenary.com

"IPFW, South Dakota State, and North Dakota State all are new teams this year in the conference. It raises the bar with financial commitment for the entire Centenary program. There are going to be financial challenges that we will have moreso than some of the other schools that have a lot of funding from their state. Let's line it up and just play ball."

The future looks bright with enthusiastic Tallach in the driver seat, but fans have voiced problems about one main aspect of the sporting events at Centenary. Noisemakers (loved by almost all Centenary Freak-natics) are being asked to quiet down or be completely turned off. "You've got to ask yourself to what extent is it a destructive tool or a good thing," Tallach said. He continued by giving more advice. "If there's a question about what is appropriate and what's not, then ask the official. We don't want to encourage negative cheering and make the referees mad and upset at our team." Dr. Tallach reiterated that he wanted the students and fans to have a good time at all the sporting events, but in a positive and effective manner.

"We're in a great situation," said Tallach when asked about the school mascot. If you weren't aware, the school has recently selected a committee to deal with "mascot meltdown" and how to make the Centenary image more marketable. "If it's in the school's interest, let's give ourselves the best. Something to enhance the Gents and Ladies will only bring positive effect to our school's morale." With business aside, Dr. Tallach and staff plan to make it a great year in Centenary athletics history. Much like Tallach's comment on the Summit League conference is his attitude toward the future he wants for the entire department: "Let's line it up and just play ball."

Conglomerate presents: The life of a student athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

It's been one long week. From night classes to late practices to a very long day at the ballpark—the life of a collegiate athlete. It was 5:30 a.m. and our alarms were ringing to wake us up. We played at 8 a.m. —and for those of you not familiar with softball, an 8 a.m. game isn't all that exciting to look forward to. Wet softballs from the grass and droopy eyes from lack of sleep seem to frighten us—but not on the field. 5:55 a.m. came and my roommate Ryan and I left for Bossier to play some softball. We only have 16 players this season, two being freshmen, so we are stacked with an experienced ball club.

We arrived at the fields at 6:15 a.m. and began hitting. We never looked back. This fall tournament made me reminisce about the good 'ole days of summer traveling ball, spending 13 hours in the heat on dirt and in the most uncomfortable shoe to wear—a metal spike. In all black, we looked quite intimidating, I must say. Nevertheless, we dominated on the field all day.

Every player contributed in some way in our Saturday games, and that is what makes us such a great team. We learn from others and we build each other up. We finally packed our equipment up at around 7:00 p.m. and were off to dinner.

I just want to say that Saturday, September 22, was our first day in uniform and a great day for victories. Come out and support us Saturday the 29th at our softball complex. Game times are: 9:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. Another great weekend of ball is expected, and much more fun with fan support.

photo courtesy of GoCentenary.com

Go Ladies & Gents!

"I come to play everyday." -- David Ortiz, Boston Red Sox

Jarboe Jabber of the Week: Just some kids living the dream

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

Click. The lights pulse and gradually begin to heat up as Jones-Rice Field is lightly lit. A low-lying mist slowly starts to creep from various places on campus. The smell of blood, sweat, and a little more tears than are needed for a football field flow throughout the campus. Can you hear it, my children? It's Intramural Football time at Centenary!

The fields will indeed be filled this week as start Intramural Football is in full swing around campus. Fraternities, sororities, sports teams, and even some "singing sensations" will be decked out and ready for Monday night's first match-up. But besides all the lights, glimmer, fame, and fortune that spring from the depths of intramural football, I think there is something a little more that not a lot of people look into.

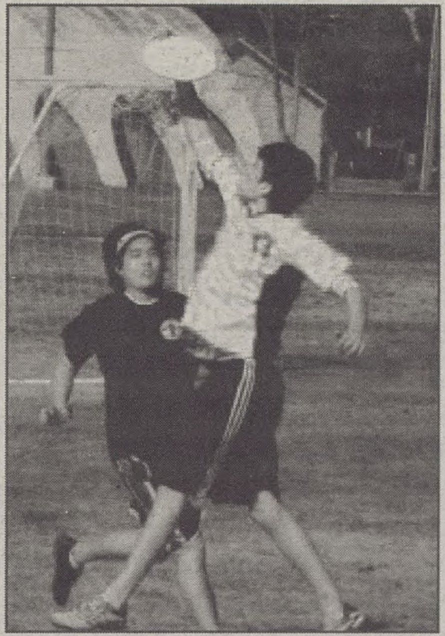
I go to sporting events. I love the rush, the ruckus, the ridicule, the large drum that the TKEs bring out and get told to hush almost instantly. Yeah, all that jazz is great and is part of the experience. But, if you're like me, you want to be on that field, sticking it to the other team and going absolutely hog-wild crazy after an amazing catch, play, kick, or score. That's what intramural sports does for that kid who can't go and do that at a Division One level. To be on the gridiron, look that Sig in the face, growl a little (trying not to be creepy), and rush for the eventual sack of the quarterback. That's what we live for, baby! It's times when I'm on the field that I am Darren Woodson from the 1995 World Champion Dallas Cowboys - God's Team - rushing in for the sack and making the highlight play. Whether you're watching the Sigs face the KAs in the first game of the season or the Chi-Os and the Zetas play for the league championship, it's about seeing the heart and determination in two team's eyes that know no matter what the outcome, there's going to be hand-shakes and hugs at the end of the game. Ladies and Gents, come on out and support your brothers and sisters in their games this week. Give a loud hoot and holler for the wonderful sport of football. Go CHOR... Amen.

Ultimate Frisbee team features "flying superheroes"

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

It's that time again: Ultimate Frisbee time. There haven't been many changes this year. It's still the same game with the same rules with a few minor adjustments in hierarchy. This year, the Ultimate Frisbee team has not only Captain Maggie Mahoney, a fourth year professional, taking charge, but Co-Captain Jeffrey Kitchens, a second year flying superhero, to help out. When I say he is a "flying superhero," I mean it. Come out and watch all the brave players leap through the air catching disc after disc. They meet Monday and Thursday nights at 10 p.m. on Jones-Rice Field to play pick up games. The team consists of Centenary students and friends from the community, male and female alike. Mahoney says, "You don't have to be good to play, you just have to know how to have fun."

Based around the rules of football, Ultimate Frisbee does not require extreme skill. You must, however, know how to throw and catch a Frisbee. According to Wikipedia, Ultimate is "a non-contact competitive team sport played with a 175 gram flying disc." The basic object of the game is to score points by passing the disc to a player in the opposing end-zone. "Players may not run while holding the disc." An interesting fact about the naming of Ultimate Frisbee: Even though it is called "Ultimate Frisbee," the term "Frisbee" was coined by the company Wham-O, who makes that brand of discs. Discraft is the company that more commonly makes the discs that the sport uses. So, in other words, the game really should be called "Ultimate Discraft" or "Ultimate Disc".



Athlete of the week: A Gent explains how far he has come

Ryan Thacker
Staff Writer

Full Name: Saul Castaneda
Nickname: Multitask
Classification: Junior
Major: Health & Exercise Science
Hometown: Dallas, TX
Sport: Cross Country

Why did you choose to come to Centenary? The small campus, distance from Dallas, and a great academic scholarship.

What one characteristic helps you in your sport? Camaraderie among the team. We adjust our individual schedules so that we can run as a group, especially the guys' team.

What has been your greatest achievement? Being able to run the 10-mile loop with the guys. My freshman year I could hardly finish five miles, but they always encouraged me to stick with it and now I can do more than I thought possible.

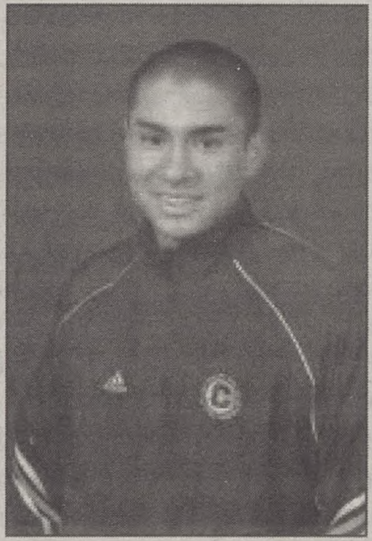


photo courtesy of GoCentenary.com

(Real) football news from around the world - well, mainly Europe

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Football at an international level can be a confusing sport – and that's real football, as in what Americans like to call "soccer," not this other kind of football where feet are involved 10% of the time. Each country has its own leagues (the most talent can be found in the Italian Serie A, the Spanish La Liga, the German Bundesliga, the English Premier League, etc.), and each country has its own traditional championships. The next tier is the national level, where Brazil may take on Portugal for the World Cup, Portugal may take on Germany for the Euro, and the U.S. will lose to Paraguay in the Copa America. The following is an attempt to break down the most important football events in recent weeks into the (most interesting) levels of competition.

The 2008 Euro

The finals in Austria and Switzerland next summer may seem distant, but qualifiers for national teams continue. In the most recent round of qualifying matches, which took place on September 12th, underdogs Scotland defeated France 1-0 in a shocking upset to take the top position in Group B. France is widely regarded as the more talented team, evidenced by their presence in the World Cup final last summer. Last year's World Cup champs Italy beat Ukraine 2-1, putting them second in the same group (the top two teams from each group go on to the next round). England, led by new coach Second Choice Steve McLaren, defeated Russia 3-0 to move up to a precarious #2 position behind Croatia (!) in Group E. Euro 2004 victors Greece are currently the top team in Group C.

English Premier League

The biggest shock was last Thursday's announcement that legendary coach Jose Mourinho and power club Chelsea had parted ways by mutual consent. Mourinho, known as "The Special One" after the press caught him referring to himself in such a manner, managed the west London team to numerous trophies and multimillion dollar spending on big-name players. Chelsea's recent drag in the EPL, however – they're currently #6 behind Newcastle United – has apparently led to some difficulties. Relatively inexperienced Avram Grant has taken over the club and saw his management off to a bad start with a 2-0 loss to giants Manchester United on Sunday. Man Utd are currently #2 in the league behind Arsenal.

Carling Cup

This league cup isn't very well-known outside of England, but it is the country's oldest football competition and therefore prestigious to many native fans. In contrast to the events of the EPL, Chelsea have performed well here – a 4-0 win over Hull was new manager Grant's first win, and a quality one. Manchester United, however, were booted out of the competition completely by the much inferior Coventry in a 2-0 game Wednesday. Smug Cristiano Ronaldo can whine about that.

Champions League

The elite clubs of international football play in this competition – it's generally thought that only the best of the best qualify for the Champions League, though how Lazio made it in is beyond me (I might be a little Roma-biased). Also currently in the group elimination stage, Matchday 2 will encompass October 2nd and 3rd. Manchester United will take on Roma – the last time the two teams played, it was in this league's quarterfinal, and Man Utd smashed past Roma with a 7-1 win and unfortunate fan-on-fan violence – while Spanish giants Barcelona will play Stuttgart. Valencia-Chelsea is a well-matched game, although Celtic-Milan will probably be the more entertaining one to watch. Liverpool-Marseille and Lazio-Real Madrid will also be notable matches, if only for the titan fan clashes sure to come.

Major League Soccer

Ah, America, using the blasted word in the football league's name. I saved this for last since it probably has the least total talent and I admittedly don't follow it as avidly as the others (I'll be better for next time). International superstar David Beckham brought worldwide attention to the MLS when he moved from Real Madrid to the Los Angeles Galaxy earlier this year. Unfortunately, Beckham injured his right knee in the SuperLiga final against Pachuca on August 29 and was ruled out for six weeks. Still, his name alone generates sufficient press for this struggling American league, as he just became the first MLS player to be short-listed for FIFPro's World Best XI Player Awards.

Pictured below, left to right: John Terry's Chelsea's kit, an England national jersey, and David Beckham's new LA Galaxy kit. Photo by Emily DeLatin.

HOROSCOPES

INSPIRED BY THE BEATLES

Aries (3/21- 4/19) "One thing I can tell you is you got to be free."

Taurus (4/20- 5/20) "Words are flying out like endless rain into a paper cup, they slither while they pass, they slip away across the universe."

Gemini (5/21- 6/21) "I don't know why you say goodbye I say hello."

Cancer (6/22- 7/22) "Living is easy with eyes closed."

Leo (7/23- 8/22) "Hey Jude, refrain, don't carry the world upon your shoulders."

Virgo (8/23- 9/22) "Yesterday, love was such an easy game to play."

Libra (9/23- 10/22) "Got a good reason for taking the easy way out."

Scorpio (10/23- 11/21) "[You] get high with a little help from your friends."

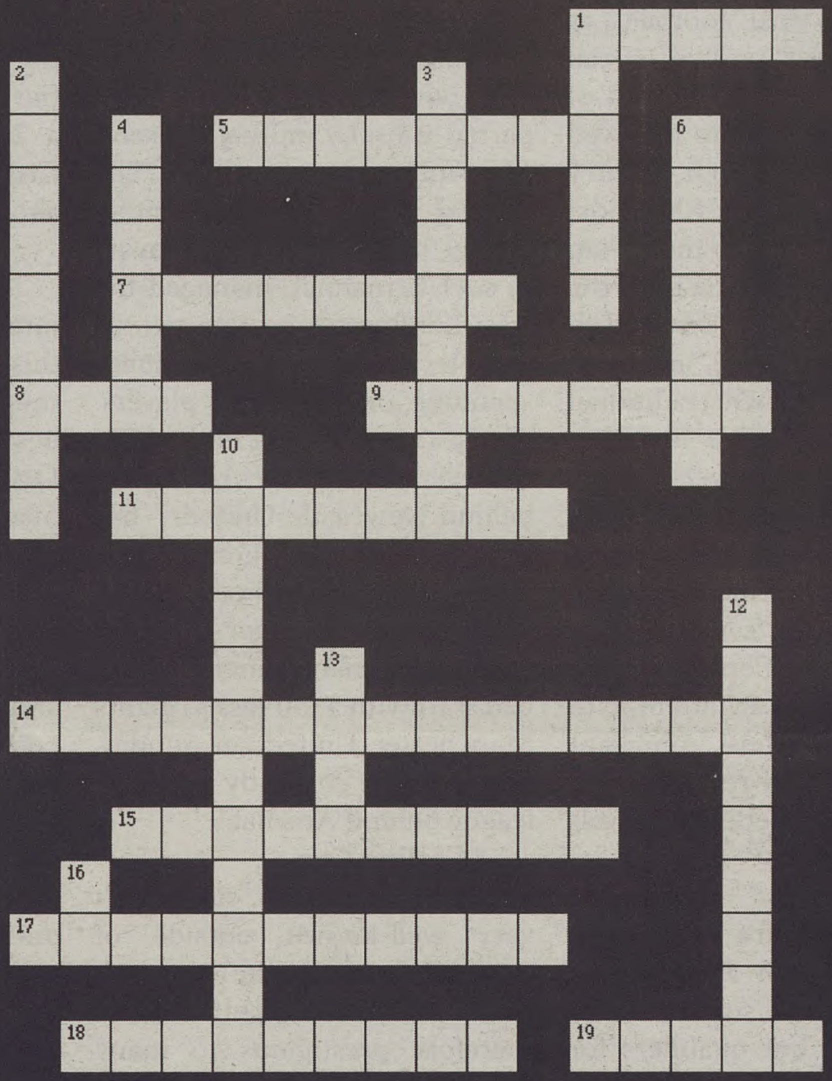
Sagittarius (11/22- 12/21) "The Magical Mystery Tour is waiting to take you away."

Capricorn (12/22- 1/19) "Well, shake it up, baby, now. Twist and shout."

Aquarius (1/20- 2/18) "As we live a life of ease, everyone of us has all we need. Sky of blue and sea of green, in our yellow submarine."

Pisces (2/19- 3/20) "All your life, you were only waiting for this moment to arise."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: PREVIEW WEEK!

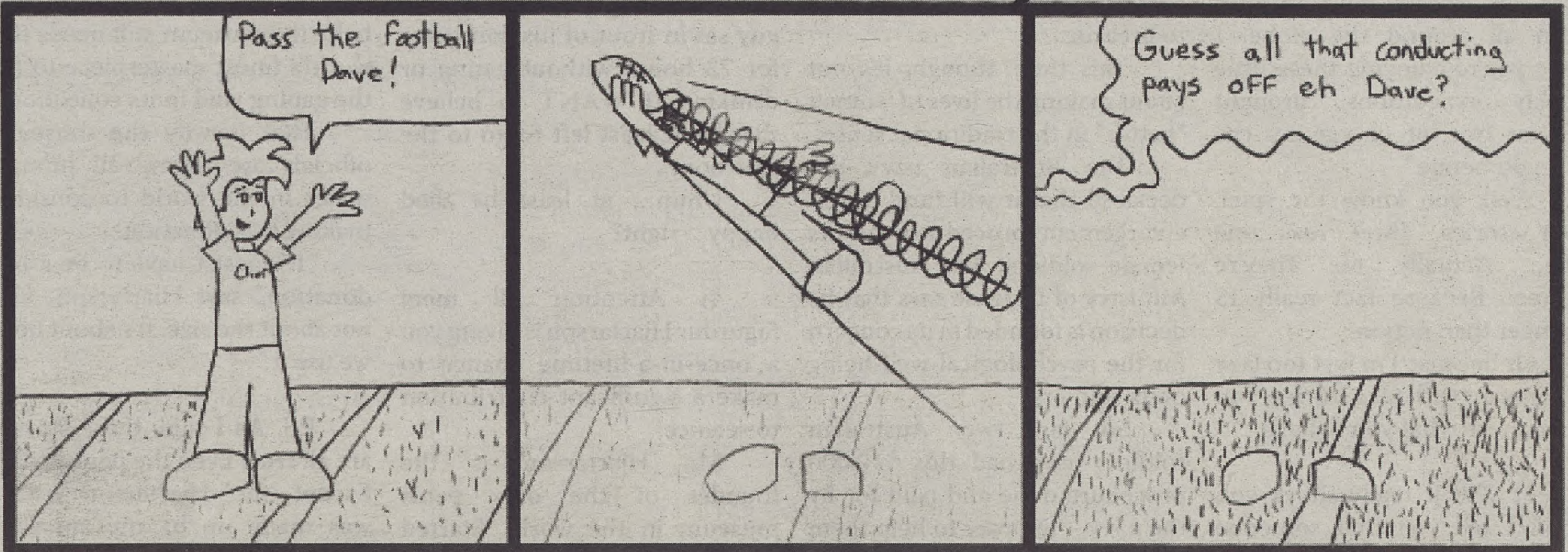


ACROSS
1. Hugh Laurie plays a very "unorthodox" but brilliant doctor
5. Outwit, outplay, outlast
7. Set in sin city, and also named for it
8. Beauty and the _______
9. Everyone's "favorite" family returns for season 19 after a summer movie
11. America's Next Top Model's host
14. Spin-off of very popular doctor-drama
15. Depicts the early years of Clark Kent (you know, superman)
17. Stars super-hunk Wentworth Miller
18. Show featuring an "ugly" girl in the fashion industry
19. Forensic Anthropology meets "cop-drama"

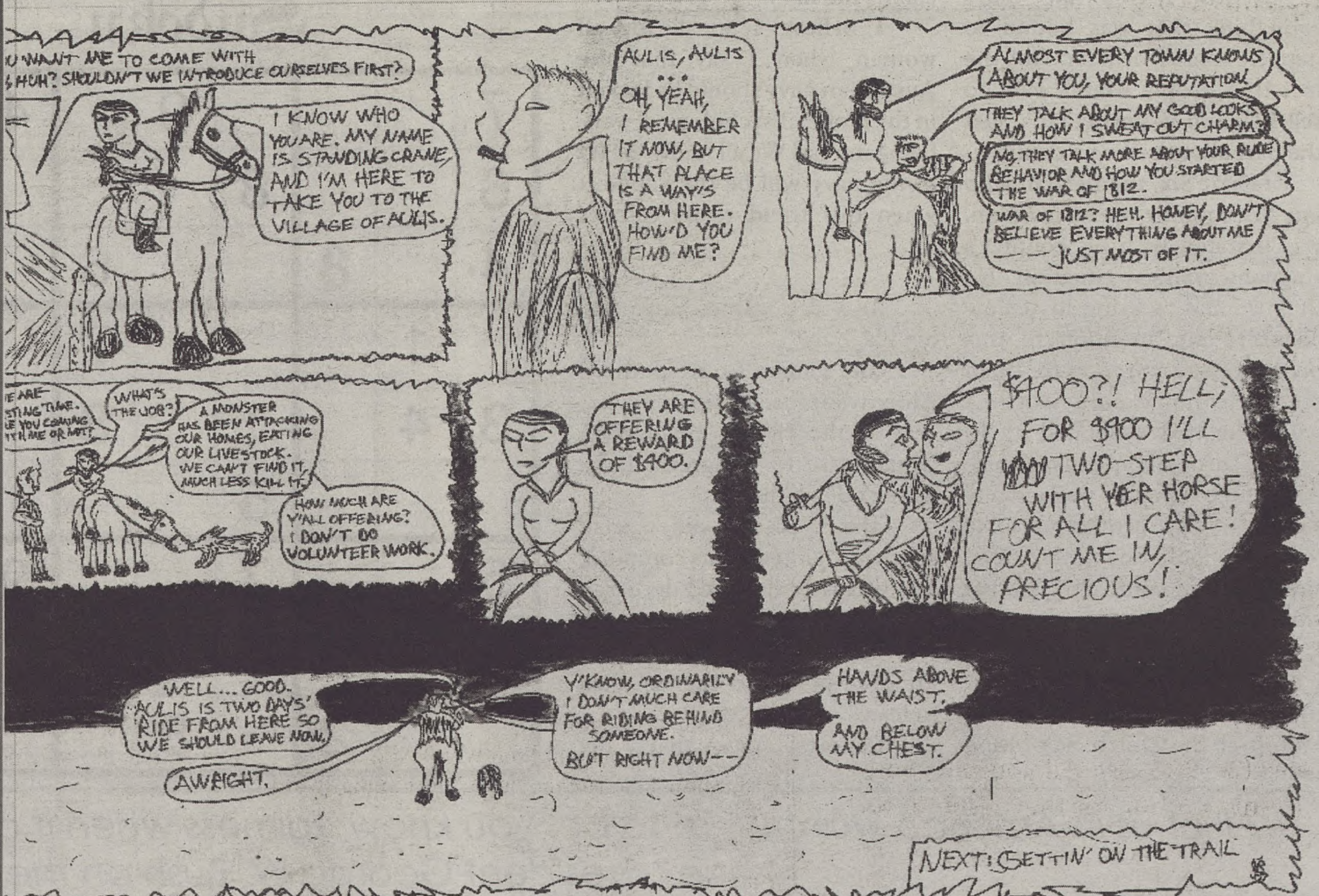
DOWN
1. Popular show about modern day super heroes
2. Popular animated show featuring Peter Griffin and his wacky family and friends
3. Crazy controversial reality show about kids "surviving" in a ghost town without adults
4. Cop-drama set in post Katrina New Orleans
6. Famous for this line "Make it work"
10. Very popular doctor-drama
12. British remake starring Steve Carrell
13. _____ or no ______
16. Stands for Emergency Room (come on people!)

A Day with Christ

by Chris Christ


Pass the football Dave!
Chris
Guess all that conducting pays off eh Dave?

Wildfist By John Bonner


U WANT ME TO COME WITH , HUH? SHOULDN'T WE INTRODUCE OURSELVES FIRST?
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. MY NAME IS STANDING CRANE, AND I'M HERE TO TAKE YOU TO THE VILLAGE OF AULIS.
AULIS, AULIS ... OH, YEAH, I REMEMBER IT NOW, BUT THAT PLACE IS A WAY'S FROM HERE. HOW'D YOU FIND ME?
ALMOST EVERY TOWN KNOWS ABOUT YOU, YOUR REPUTATION.
THEY TALK ABOUT MY GOOD LOOKS AND HOW I SWEAT OUT CHARM?
NO, THEY TALK MORE ABOUT YOUR RUDE BEHAVIOR AND HOW YOU STARTED THE WAR OF 1812.
WAR OF 1812? HEH. HONEY, DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING ABOUT ME —— JUST MOST OF IT.
E ARE STING TIME. E YOU COMING TH ME OR NOT?
WHAT'S THE JOB?
A MONSTER HAS BEEN ATTACKING OUR HOMES, EATING OUR LIVESTOCK. WE CAN'T FIND IT, MUCH LESS KILL IT.
HOW MUCH ARE Y'ALL OFFERING? I DON'T DO VOLUNTEER WORK.
THEY ARE OFFERING A REWARD OF $400.
$400?! HELL; FOR $900 I'LL TWO-STEP WITH YER HORSE FOR ALL I CARE! COUNT ME IN, PRECIOUS!
WELL... GOOD. AULIS IS TWO DAYS' RIDE FROM HERE SO WE SHOULD LEAVE NOW.
AWRIGHT.
Y'KNOW, ORDINARILY I DON'T MUCH CARE FOR RIDING BEHIND SOMEONE.
BUT RIGHT NOW——
HANDS ABOVE THE WAIST.
AND BELOW MY CHEST.
NEXT: GETTIN' ON THE TRAIL

Strange but true news: Belgium shows up on eBay, Australia funds boob jobs for soldiers, and video games actually kill people

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

Welcome to your next dose of weird news stories from all around the globe! I hope you're enjoying these little weekly expeditions, brought to you free of charge by the "Conglomerate."

Well, you know the spiel. Four stories. Three real, one fake... Actually, no. They're all real. Because fact really IS stranger than fiction.

Or because I'm just too lazy to come up with fake stories. You can choose what you believe.

1) Will it really shock you when I tell you that someone tried to sell Belgium on eBay?

It just seems like that's something that was bound to happen sooner or later. Not the fact that people would want to sell Belgium in particular – just the part about selling a country.

Gerrit Six, the Belgian who put his country up for auction, was irritated with his country's stagnant political situation. He thus wanted to bring his fellow countrymen's attention to this burning issue and to make them see their homeland's worth - which he had estimated at 10 million euros (about $14 million). And which someone was actually willing to pay, prompting eBay to finally pull down the offer, "just to avoid confusion" (actual words of their PR).

You want to know what I think? I think that guy's just too stressed. He should spend a month at the Dutch nail-biting clinic.

2) I swear I'm not doing this on purpose, but I have found yet another weird story that pertains to breasts.

This time, though, it's not about making the lives of women "better" in the traditional sense.

The Australian navy has declared that it will fund breast enlargement procedures for its female soldiers. The Australian Ministry of Defense says that its decision is founded in its concern for the psychological well-being of its soldiers.

So far, two Australian soldiers have had this $10,000 procedure done and paid for by the navy – in order to help them solve some psychological issues, claims the navy.

"I believe I speak for all women when I say that the Australian navy should be kicked in the crotch. Psychological well-being my ass! We all know WHO in the navy will be the happiest when this trend really catches on.

3) Video games don't kill people, huh?

The gamer from southern China who recently died in a cyber café in the city of Guangzhou would dare to disagree... If he weren't dead, that is.

The 30-year-old man suddenly fainted at his computer and was later declared deceased by the paramedics. The scene was so traumatic that about a hundred people at the café fled in fear.

Reports say that the unlucky gamer most likely died of exhaustion after playing computer games for three days straight. Apparently, nobody at the café thought it weird that a guy sat in front of his computer for 73 hours without eating or drinking (I WANT to believe that he at least left to go to the restroom).

Umm... at least he died happy... right?

4) Attention all men! Sigurdur Hjartarson is giving you a once-in-a-lifetime chance to make a significant contribution to science.

Mr. Hjartarson is the founder of the only penis museum in the world. Started in 1974, in the Icelandic city of Husavik, the museum now boasts 195 specimens from many different species, such as hamsters, whales and horses.

So, here's how YOU can help: the museum still needs the world's finest masterpiece to fill the gaping void in its collection.

That is why the museum officials are asking all human males in the world to consider making this donation.

"It doesn't have to be a big donation," says Hjartarson. "It's not about the size. It's about how we use it."

P.S. As I said, these stories are all true. Even the penis story. Except the Hjartarson quote was made up by my amazing roommate.

Sudoku

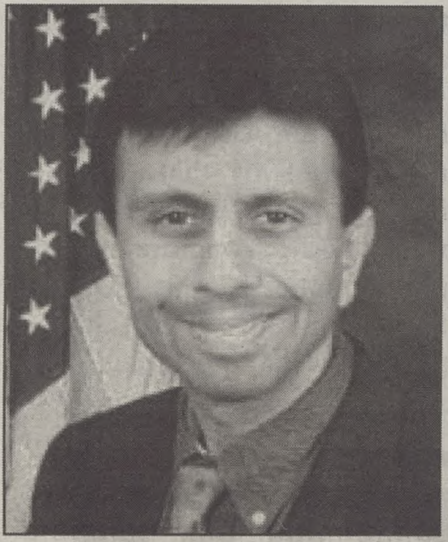
7				9		4		
6			8					
4		8			6			5
	1				7			
3	4		1		8		5	9
			5				4	
5			7			9		1
					3			2
		2		8				4

All of us in America want there to be, you know, fairness when it comes to justice. -President George W. Bush on the Jena Six

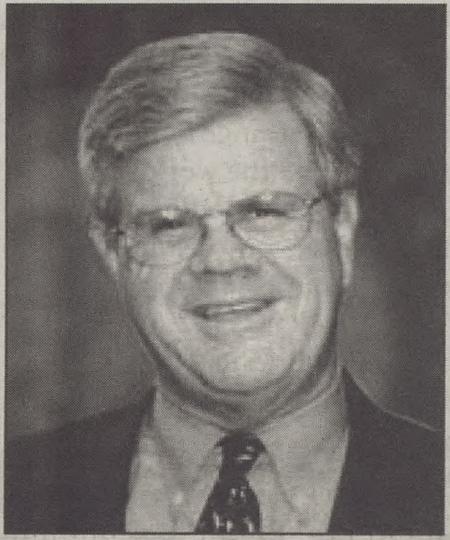
The CONGLOMERATE

October 5, 2007 Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press Volume 84, Issue 6

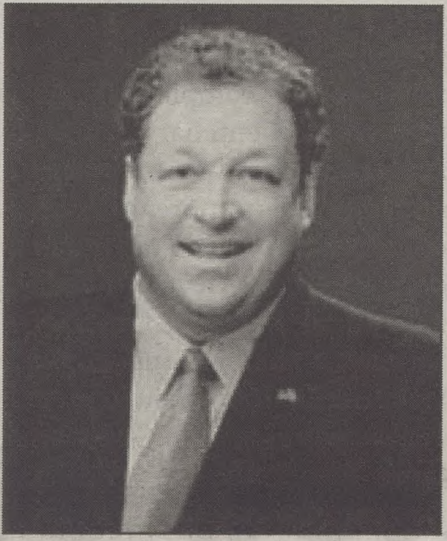
Gubernatorial candidates campaign and debate around the state in the run up to October 20th



Bobby Jindal, Republican



Foster Campbell, Democrat



Walter Boasso, Democrat

John Georges, Independent

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

On Thursday, September 27th, the four top candidates in the 2007 Louisiana gubernatorial election all met for a televised hour-long debate at the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge.This was the first time that Republican Bobby Jindal appeared alongside Independent John Georges and Democrats Foster Campbell and Walter Boasso.

Jindal has been following true to the typical frontrunner strategy by avoiding forums and debates, hoping to get over 50% of the votes, thereby avoiding a run-off.

Although the other three candidates mentioned Jindal's reluctance to debate as well as his anti-corruption campaign's implication of Campbell and Boasso, they all stuck to promoting their platform and vision of Louisiana's future.

New Orleans businessman John Georges, who has the most cash at hand for his campaign, named hurricane recovery, health care, and education as his top three priorities.

Georges, running as an Independent, referenced the Blueprint Louisiana platform, which classifies its top five priorities as adopting the nation's best ethics laws, preparing students for success, developing a skilled workforce, providing first-class access to health care, and building a superior transportation system.

Congressman Bobby Jindal, who many believe has been running for governor since the loss to Kathleen Blanco four years ago, stuck to the talking points outlined in his campaign's policy papers. Jindal, running as a Republican, named his top three priorities as ethics reform, educational improvements, and job creation.

Public Service Commissioner Foster Campbell, of Bossier Parish, named his top three priorities as health care improvements, investments in schools and roads, and coastal restoration.

Democrat Campbell explained that his priorities could be accomplished through his comprehensive plan to achieve a surplus revenue by replacing the state taxes on income and oil severance with a processing fee on oil companies.

State Senator Walter Boasso, of Arabi, named his top three priorities as hurricane recovery, education, and healthcare. Democrat Boasso explained a plan to make hurricane recovery a reality through more affordable insurance.

In the round with questions geared toward a specific candidate, Boasso was asked why he switched to the Democratic party. Boasso gave an emotional response in which he replied, "My party left me in the water for eight days after Hurricane Katrina...My party lied to me. President Bush stood in Jackson Square and promised to rebuild."

The four main candidates also participated in a debate last night at LSUS.

Photos courtesy of www.townhallshow.com.

Quote of the Century

"I heard somebody say, 'Where's Mandela?' Well, Mandela's dead because Saddam Hussein killed all the Mandelas." -President George W. Bush

Letter from the editor: The Conglomerate does publish actual news

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

We're in an age of news apathy. Perhaps it's not new or even relatively recent, perhaps it's indicative of a greater cultural and historical trend – tracking all the way to our President and reports that only one, neither fair nor balanced news channel is allowed on in the White House – but the apathy does exist. Compared to former President Lyndon B. Johnson, who famously had a three-television set in the Oval Office, each tuned to a different news channel, today's Commander-in-Chief and general public are positively ignorant (Johnson also read breaking news off the latest ticker, thanks to a printer dedicated to continuously printing the latest Associated Press wires).

One reason for this might be laziness; really, a click to CNN.com in a web browser takes an even shorter time to type than Facebook. But another reason is a complete lack of time – and Centenary students, most of whom are involved in sports, academic organizations, or service groups in addition to classes, are a perfect example of this.

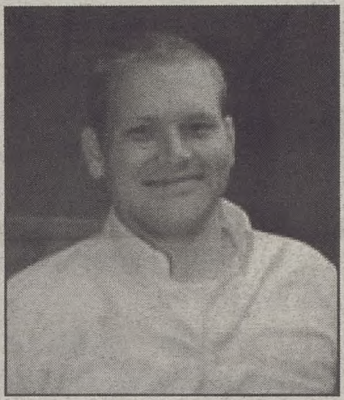
What The Conglomerate is striving to do, then, is bring the news to you. We don't just want to be a small campus newspaper that runs features on what the staff deems important; we want to inform you of what is going on in the college as well as the broader world, nationally and internationally, and relay how it affects us. New features are attempting to do this - a monthly letter from the Student Government President, weekly reports on strange but true news from around the world, a weekly Amnesty International bulletin that focuses on ongoing human rights abuses, and a weekly "news in brief" section that summarizes the week's most important events on the national and world stage.

Other informative columns will continue to run as well – "Sex and the Centenary" will run at least twice a month (give Southern Elle material to work with and email her at centenarysex@yahoo.com). In the midst of all this, lest you think we here at the paper take ourselves too seriously, fear not – we want to report real news, but have fun with it, too. If you need proof of that, look no further than the question of the week. And congratulate staff photographer Emily DeLatin for having the, er, balls to ask professors that question.

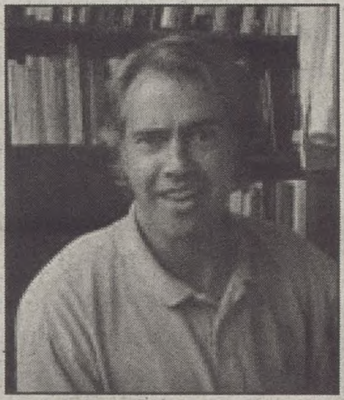
Question of the Week

WHAT WOULD YOUR STRIPPER NAME BE?

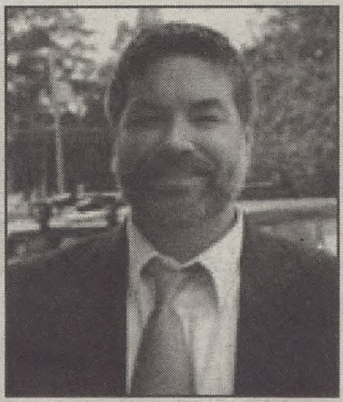
Some of the professors follow the formula of a first pet's name + the street they grew up on.



"Dusty Cloudswept." -Dr. Philip Barker

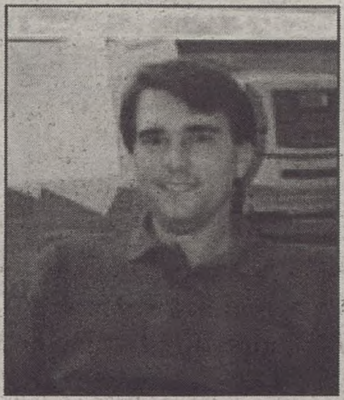


"Mr. Unnatural." -Dr. Loren Demerath



"Peaches Oscar." -Dr. Robert Prickett

"Raul Tristao Vaz." -Dr. Juan Rodriguez



"Dr. Psych-You-Out." -Dr. Matt Weeks

The Conglomerate would like to point out that of the many professors asked, these five were the only ones cool enough to give an answer. We salute you.

Corrections

In last week's issue - Issue 5, September 28th- a few mistakes were made due to power outages experienced during copy editing. We apologize for these and any subsequent indications of staff ignorance. We promise we're (somewhat) intelligent.

-Page 2: Hurricane Katrina occurred in 2005.

-Page 21: The FA Cup, not the Carling Cup, is the oldest football competition in England.

EDITORIALS

Letter from the Student Government President: new year, new additional mascot

Hello! I hope everyone's first month of school has been a blessed one. My name is Holly Williams, and in case you are unaware, I am your student body president. I will be writing in the Conglomerate monthly to keep everyone updated and informed. First, I want to address the mascot issue. We ARE moving forward as we seek a resolution to the mascot dilemma. Dr. Schwab has commissioned a group to ultimately decide on a new mascot by Homecoming (no, I am not joking). What is going to happen to the Gents and Ladies? My fellow traditionalists, don't worry. They are not going anywhere. We are just going to supplement them with an additional mascot…something more…intimidating?? We shall see. As a student, you will have many opportunities to vote and voice your opinion. So, keep your eyes open for emails and events. Second, Student Government meetings are held every Tuesday from 8-10 p.m. in the Centenary Room. If you would like to know where your student fees are going and what the student body is supporting, I encourage you to attend our meetings. Third, if you ever have an idea, suggestion, or complaint, please do not hesitate to contact me or any SGA member. We are here to serve you. And, lastly, I encourage you to support our sports teams. Together, we can create an atmosphere that is fun and motivating to our players. Learn the fight song, make up some cheers, paint your body, or just show up…your support is needed and greatly appreciated. Thank you and I hope you have a wonderful month!

Holly Williams
SGA President

Counselor's Corner: Counseling Services wants to erase stigma of depression with National Screening Day

Counseling Services wants to erase some of the stigma associated with depression, a common disorder that affects many college students. Although depression affects 18.8 million people over the age of 18, it is still under-diagnosed and misunderstood by many people. In order to raise awareness of depression among college students, Counseling Services is observing National Depression Screening Day by offering a free, confidential screening on Thursday, October 11th, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The screening will take place in our office, which is located on the ground floor of Rotary Hall. If you haven't been feeling like yourself lately, we may be able to help you figure out what's wrong. Students will be given the opportunity to take a written screening assessment and to discuss the results with a mental health professional. The screening does not serve as a diagnosis, but rather a way to provide information about the signs and symptoms of depression. The screening process only takes about 20 minutes, and will help determine if you need further evaluation and treatment. The results of the screening will remain completely confidential. If you are unable to stop by Counseling Services on October 11th, we also offer access to free online screening for a variety of disorders through our website: www.centenary.edu/services/counseling. Just click on the Online Mental Health Screening link and select the screening you would like to take. If you would like to make an appointment to discuss your results, please call 869-5466.

-Kelly Gay is a master level counseling intern at the Centenary Counseling Center. Confidential, short-term counseling is available to students at no charge. Call 869-5466 for more information or to make an appointment.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL

Maroon and white do not make green - yet (concerning Centenary's apathy for environmentalism)

I hope I'm not the only one who walks through the Residence Halls concerned that virtually every suite light is on, lights that rarely need to be used anyway. And it isn't just the students – I regularly see the large porch light on the east side of Hamilton turned on at 10 in the morning. TVs in the Caf and the SUB are left on when no one is watching them.

Despite the several posters instructing students on how to print double-sided, stacks and stacks of one-sided documents continue to be printed, only to be thrown away or recycled. While I appreciate the effort, a cursory glance in the recycling bins makes it obvious that so much of that paper did not need to be printed in the first place.

Just the other day I noticed the recycling bins in James Lobby were missing. Upon asking my nearest authority, I learned that a Residence Life supervisor had decided that the bins were tacky and detrimental to Centenary's image. It's funny that unfinished baseboard jobs in James, a decrepit Shell that fills with water after heavy rainfall, and moldy drop ceilings in Rotary aren't considered "tacky," while visible evidence of the sole environmental initiative on campus is.

Thankfully, there is hope. Through its Environmental Initiative, the Associated Colleges of the South (Centenary's accrediting organization) helps fund programs and provide expertise to schools throughout our region. Several colleges and universities across America are making great strides to reduce their campus' carbon footprint and to serve as better stewards of the Earth. A recent article in Newsweek highlights the efforts of several prestigious institutions to make environmentalism more than a nice thing to do when it's cheap and easy. Perhaps it's time for Centenary to jump on the bandwagon.

This summer, 284 college presidents declared commitments to make their campuses carbon neutral in the near future. Could such a declaration be in the works from Dr. Schwab? One can only hope. Unfortunately, being environmentally conscious is too often viewed as being more expensive and troublesome than it's worth. Of course, I don't think Centenary can start by copying the Lewis Center at Oberlin, a recently constructed building that is powered completely by solar panels and produces 30% more energy than it consumes.

Yet, there are much simpler means to promote change. Once a year the students at Harvard take all the garbage from campus and pile it in a central location to remind people just how much they waste. Now imagine – a year's worth of beer bottles from the frat houses, two semesters' worth of half-eaten food from Randle's, and nine months of USA Today's that end up in the garbage despite the recycling bin being right next to it and half full. Picture all of that sitting in a pile in the quasi-Quad between Mickle, Hamilton, and the Library for everyone to see (and smell) – faculty, staff, students, visitors, the divine Board of Trustees. I bet it would make people think.

That being said, I do believe that the primary responsibility for setting the institution's environmental policy falls to the administration, while the faculty also play an important role by teaching students the values of environmentalism and setting the overall tone of awareness. However, while the most recently adopted strategic planning documents (available online at www.centenary.edu/about/planning) allude to values of stewardship, leadership, and civic engagement, they make no specific mention of the College's environmental efforts. While it's hard to say, I believe a good deal of this reluctance to commit to environmental stewardship has to do with a greater concern for the budget.

One of the biggest misconceptions about being eco-friendly is that it's expensive. This couldn't be further from the truth - the main objective is to be more efficient by reducing consumption and reusing what we do consume. How can limiting what you spend be more expensive than buying plastic cups and plates only to throw them away to buy more? Even more obvious is the reality that installing more energy-efficient lighting across campus would reduce the school's electric bill. Energy is a limited and costly resource - reducing the amount we use can only be beneficial to the planet and the pocketbook.

And we can always do more. Even people who claim to be champions of environmentalism don't always get it right. I turn my computer off every night, but I only recently realized that if I leave it plugged in to charge I'm not really helping. We can all learn from each other. Greek Life gives their members Nalgene bottles to carry drinks in, as does RHA to all students. Philosophy professor Chris Ciocchetti accepts, grades, and returns all class papers in digital format. Imagine how much paper he has saved the several years he has been here. Is there any reason this couldn't be adopted as a campus-wide policy?

The responsibility to reduce our negative impact on the environment falls to each member of the Centenary community. However, it is up to the administration to enact the types of programs and initiatives – programs which only they have the power to realize – in order to make significant strides toward becoming a truly green campus. The faculty, as its connection with the students is much more direct, is equally important; they have the duty of instructing students "to recognize the importance of…the interdependence of people and the environment." My suggestion to students: clamor, complain, and raise all the hell you care to raise until it happens.

Parker Jarnigan,
Member, Centenary Environmental Association
VP of Internal Affairs, Student Government Association

FEATURES

LOCAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS

Congress passes new hate crimes legislation in honor of Matthew Shepard, to extend federal protection to include more minorities

Caroline Cottingham
Staff Writer

On October 7th, 1998, two men pistol-whipped a young University of Wyoming student, tied him to a remote fence post, and left him to die. The two men later claimed in court that the student had hit on them, inciting them to panic and brutally murder him. The student, Matthew Shepard, died five days later in the intensive care unit of a nearby hospital. Though both men are now serving two consecutive life sentences in prison, neither man was convicted of a hate crime. Wyoming law and federal law do not state that gay and lesbian victims can be targeted due to their sexual orientation. While federal hate crime laws protect people on the basis of race, color, religion, and national origin, these laws provide no provisions for crimes committed due to a victim's gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

But soon some of these laws might change. Judy and Dennis Shepard, Matthew's parents, have become some of the most outspoken activists in national and local politics. They have taken the pain and suffering from their son's death and turned it into passion; they speak openly and sincerely about their son's horrible death and the importance of protecting other gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals from suffering the same intolerance and abuse. In 1999 they helped then-President Bill Clinton to renew efforts to extend federal hate crime laws to include women, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and people with disabilities. The heavily conservative (and anti-Clinton) Congress never passed this legislation.

A new bill has been introduced into Congress this year, titled the Matthew Shepard Act, which just yesterday the Senate passed. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives several weeks ago. The bill would add "sexual orientation, gender, and gender identity" to the federal hate crimes legislation. The bill will now pass to the desk of President Bush, who has already threatened to veto it because he deems it "unnecessary."

Whether Bush, who ran on an anti-gay rights and anti-gay marriage platform, will veto the bill is not clear at this point. Vetoing the bill, which is attached to a defense bill, might cut funding for a few Pentagon programs which Bush is in favor of.

The bill was passed just days before the anniversary of Matthew Shepard's death on October 12th and National Coming Out Day, which is celebrated on October 11th. Outreach and Residence Life plan to sponsor National Coming Out Day by offering students free t-shirts on which to paint slogans such as "Straight but Not Narrow," "Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are," and "Happy National Coming Out Day." The t-shirt painting will take place in James Lobby on Tuesday, October 9th at 7:30 p.m. Students who support their gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender friends, family members, parents, roommates, or themselves will be encouraged to wear the shirts on October 11th.

If you would like more information on Matthew Shepard's life and death, check out The Matthew Shepard Foundation (www.matthewshepard.org), Matthew's Place (www.matthewsplace.com) or The Laramie Project (which is both a play and a movie). Several artists have also written songs about Matthew, including Thursday, Melissa Etheridge, Elton John, Amy Ray, and Cyndi Lauper.

Shreveport celebrates "A Night to Honor Israel" with local religious leaders

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

A Night to Honor Israel is coming to Shreveport again. The event will be one of many that are to take place in cities throughout the United States, all through the rest of this year and into early 2008.

Last year, in Shreveport alone, over a thousand people participated in the inaugural event, which aims to bridge Christianity and Judaism closer together. According to Christians United for Israel's official website (www.cufi.org), the evening is "packed with outstanding speakers and music with all of the focus being on support for Israel and the Jewish people."

Rev. David Daniel, regional director of Christians United for Israel, said that the goal of the event is to "[express] solidarity between Christians and Jews" (as quoted on www.shreveporttimes.com).

Howard Ross, executive director of the North Louisiana Jewish Foundation, stresses the importance of establishing more inter-religious communication in an area where such communication is so needed. "We all have a responsibility," he told The Shreveport Times, "to bring peace to the Holy Land."

This year's guest speaker at A Night to Honor Israel in Shreveport will be Rev. John Hagee, one of the founders of Christians United for Israel.

The event will be held on Tuesday, October 9, at 7 p.m., at Shreveport Community Church (5720 Buncombe Road).

Senator sues God to make a point about frivolous lawsuits

Michelle Junot
Staff Writer

Senator Ernie Chambers of Omaha, Nebraska, filed a lawsuit against God in early September. As if this was not unusual enough, Eric Perkins, who initially chose to remain anonymous, submitted a response claiming God's authorship.

According to the Associated Press, Senator Chambers filed his suit in an effort to make a point about how frivolous lawsuits have become. He claims that today "anybody can sue anybody – even God."

Senator Chambers' lawsuit has been the source of much criticism during recent weeks and has inspired not just one, but two, separate responses from God.

The responses, as reported by the Associated Press, originally arrived at the Douglass County Court in Omaha under mysterious circumstances. John Friend, the Clerk of Court, told reporters that the first response just appeared; no one is sure how it came to be in the possession of the court.

"God" makes a couple of points of his own in the response, now known to have been written by Eric Perkins. Friend read the response to reporters, saying "I created man and woman with free will and next to the promise of immortal life, free will is my greatest gift to you."

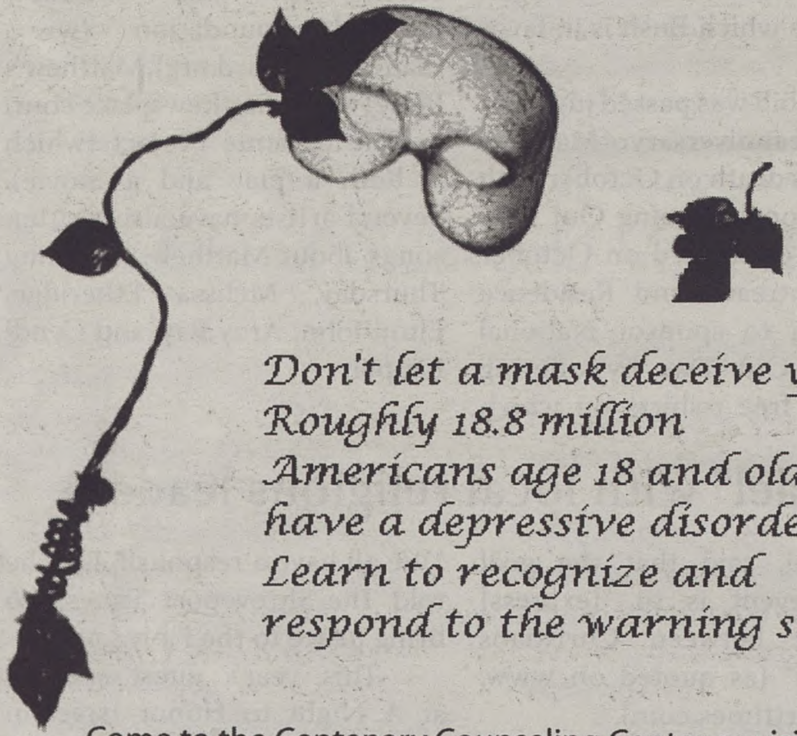
This response directly disputes the accusations of Senator Chambers, whose lawsuit blames God for causing the "widespread death, destruction and terrorization of millions" of people.

The second letter from the anonymous author claiming to be God still had no mention of authorship attached to it, but did have a phone number. It appears, as further reported by the Associated Press, that the number actually belonged to a Corpus Christi, Texas, law office.

Later, Eric Perkins, a lawyer from Corpus Christie, was identified as the sender of at least one of the letters. He is reported by another Associate Press article to have said, "I thought to myself, 'What would God say?'"

While the mystery of one of the letters is solved, the question of the other's origin still looms. Senator Chambers filed a suit against God to present questions about the American courts system. It seems now that the "divine" responses to the lawsuit have brought about more interesting and overshadowing questions.

Disguising Your True Feelings?



Don't let a mask deceive you. Roughly 18.8 million Americans age 18 and older have a depressive disorder. Learn to recognize and respond to the warning signs.

Come to the Centenary Counseling Center or visit our website on Thursday, October 11th from 11 am to 1 pm for National Depression Screening Day. Find out if you are depressed and what you can do about it.

College Democrats and Republicans present...

GUBERNATORIAL DEBATE

Centenary College Democrats are organizing a convocation for Thursday, October 11th, intended to inform the campus about the 2007 Louisiana gubernatorial candidates. The convocation, which will begin at 11:10 a.m. in Kilpatrick Auditorium, will feature a forum-like debate with a short five minute introduction by Dr. Rodney Grunes. Following the introduction will be 15-minute presentations in which each group endorses a candidate for governor and debates the merit of their particular platforms.

College Democrats will endorse Foster Campbell while the College Republicans will endorse Bobby Jindal. After the presentations there will be a short question and answer session with the audience. Information about both of the endorsed candidates will be distributed at the event, and there will also be a table for voter registration. Refreshments will be provided as well.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

The leaders of North Korea and South Korea had a historic meeting earlier this week. On Thursday, North Korea's Kim Jong-il and South Korea's Roh Moo-hyun signed a pact pledging to seek a permanent peace agreement. The Korean peninsula has been divided since the Korean War in the 1950s, when the former Soviet Union and the United States fought for dominance.

In **Myanmar, where police continue to violently crack down on peaceful pro-democracy protests** by Buddhist monks, bodies are being left out as a warning to others. One international aid worker described two bodies left near a Buddhist temple, which many have taken as a warning from the government military.

Former President Jimmy Carter was involved in a screaming match in the Darfur area of Sudan. Carter had a scheduled meeting with representatives of ethnic African refugees in a town in Darfur and was en route when Sudanese officials blocked him from entering. The local security chief apparently told Carter he could not go because it "wasn't on the program," to which Carter angrily responded "we're going to anyway!"

In a press conference, **President Bush declared that Nelson Mandela and all the Mandelas are dead because of Saddam Hussein.** Mandela, former President of South Africa and most famous for his anti-apartheid activism in the country, is very much alive. And not in Iraq.

Controversy rages over art depicting the late Pope John Paul II in suggestive homoerotic position

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

Spain's most famous party city, Ibiza, recently became the center of great controversy on the Iberian Peninsula.

The controversy raged over a certain image that was part of a new exhibit that opened on September 7 at Ibiza's Museum of Contemporary Art. The piece by Dutch artist Ivo Hendriks was one of three images that made up a collage depicting religious figures in homoerotic positions. The picture that stirred the most debate involved the late Pope John Paul II in a suggestive scene with another man.

It shouldn't come as a surprise, then, that Hendriks' collage, titled "Vamos a Ibiza" ("Let's Go to Ibiza"), was harshly criticized by the Spanish Catholic Church.

Vincente Juan Segura, the bishop of Ibiza, asked for the "immediate and urgent withdrawal" of the collage, claiming that it had "offended Catholic sentiment" (as quoted on www.news.com.au). He gave the Museum an ultimatum and threatened to take the case to court if Hendriks' piece wasn't removed within 48 hours.

What added fire to the controversy was that Ibiza's Museum of Contemporary Art is located in a former church. The building was handed over to the Museum in 1997; the bishop argued that the terms of this agreement had been violated by the town hall, which is required to inform the Church of the exhibits' content in advance.

At first, the city's town hall and Museum representatives stood firm behind their decision.

In response to the bishop's accusations, the director of the Museum, Elena Ruiz Sastre, emphasized the Museum's "absolute respect for the liberty of creation, expression and for the work of the commissioner who chooses the pieces."

Further quoted by www.elpais.com, Sastre said that it is the Museum director's responsibility "to be the bridge between the society and the art of its time," and that it wasn't the Museum's intention to offend anyone.

The exhibit, which had its premiere in Holland on July 13, presented fifteen Dutch artists from the second half of the 20th century who had ties to Ibiza. Ruiz pointed out that some of the other featured painters, photographers and writers, such as Cees Nooteboom and Micha Klein, had also been considered controversial in their own times (alluding to the years of Francisco Franco's dictatorship in Spain).

The town's councilor for culture, Sandra Mayans, stated that "Ibiza has never and will never exercise any form of censorship of artistic expression."

However, according to a September 25 article posted on Agencia Católica de Noticias de España's official website, Ibiza's town hall has finally decided to close the exhibit, canceling its 1997 contract, through which the old church had served as the Museum of Contemporary Art.

The International Society
for Cultural Awareness presents

Italian Movie Night

Friday, October 5 at 7 pm
in Jackson 304

"Il mostro" (The Monster) is a 1996 Italian movie starring and directed by Roberto Benigni, the Oscar winner behind "Life is Beautiful."

The comedy is about the trials and tribulations of a falsely accused serial sex killer.

There will be Italian food!
Everyone is welcome!

Sex and the Centenary: how to make chivalry fit in a college budget

Southern Elle
Staff Writer

Like most of my friends, I grew up in a household where the guy was supposed to pick the girl up, take her to dinner and a movie, pay for everything, and return her with the flourish of a Southern gentleman. But my parents apparently didn't plan for all situations. They didn't give me instructions on how to handle dating people who didn't have jobs and couldn't pay for themselves, much less me. Nor did they explain to me how to handle being the provider and feeling like I had an obligation to fork over every hard-earned cent. Over the years, my relationships have been more a lesson in economics and compromise than "traditional values." To top it all off, my parents also missed out on the women's movement and the gay rights movement, both of which have heavily shaped my world and my beliefs. But I guess teaching yourself is what growing up is all about, right?

Dating can be confusing and difficult as is; who wants to worry about money? Problem is there are plenty of women who expect dinner dates, flowers, jewelry, candy, and everything else from their men. There are equally as many jobless male college students. Even though I've avoided economics classes like the plague, I can still understand that this is an equation which won't add up. Having been on both sides of the fence, I can say the grass is not greener on either side. I've gone on dates where I was too afraid to order what I wanted (i.e. something remotely expensive) for fear my date couldn't afford it. I also dated someone who went to college and left her job and her car – leaving me the sole provider for two. Both situations led to a lot of fights – and the feeling that I just wasn't doing something right.

So what are you to do when the traditional idea of man/provider and woman/receiver doesn't fit your lifestyle? Well, it's time to lay out some new, more practical options.

Around my house, "money" is a dirty word, mainly because my girlfriend and I don't have that much. We also have hearts too big for our wallets. I'd buy my girlfriend a black box theatre, a coffee shop, an SUV, and season tickets to every show for a 200-mile radius if I had the cash. She would do the same, if not more, for me. But usually flowers or dinner are our limit – and even then, it becomes an argument as to who is going to pay. It's taken us over a year to really work it out, but we try our best to trade off. If I buy groceries, she pays the electric bill. If I buy dinner, she gets the movie. It's no precise measurement, but it keeps either of us from going broke – or feeling used.

Many women and men I've talked to don't like the idea of going "traditional," especially not on the first few dates. It sets up an obligation: a man can't ask a woman out without going into debt for her, and the woman often feels like she owes him her time (or sex) because she's being treated. Going "dutch" (paying for your own meal) isn't a bad idea. It might raise some eyebrows, but it can make a date feel friendlier and less formal. Who doesn't want to ease the pressure of a first date?

If you're looking for something cheaper (and more chilled), try an afternoon coffee date at Starbucks or miniature golfing at Party Central in Bossier. Since the weather is so nice lately – sunny, but not freezing or roasting – try PB&J sandwiches at the Duck Pond. Who can resist the swings on a fall day? Non-traditional dates can be incredibly sexy. It shows that you're inventive and not afraid to explore. Sure, the Boardwalk is nice. But who would turn down an afternoon at the SciPort museum playing in the new Aerospace wing? Or what about making sand bottles at the Revel? A matinee movie in an empty theatre? An afternoon at the horse racetrack, making $2 bets? A walk through Artspace or an art gallery? Even in Shreveport, there are plenty of options.

What if you're one of the many students who don't have a job? So what if you can't go to Carrabba's for dinner? Buy a pack of $2 tea candles on your next trip to Wal-Mart and surprise your girlfriend with a candle-lit Caf dinner at Crumley Gardens. Have a musical friend play the violin or the guitar as the two of you slow dance in a dark room in Hurley. Help your boyfriend with the math homework he doesn't understand – then take a shower together. Bring your girlfriend a candy bar when her psychology presentation stresses her out. Teach your boyfriend how to play tennis. Spending time together and showing that you care for each other is what counts – not how expensively you do it.

- - -

Dr. Hammond contacted me via email to add some very important information about HPV. She said that new scientific studies have shown that HPV could be carried on other areas of the body (such as under men's fingernails or in other skin-to-skin contact), which would mean using condoms or dental dams couldn't protect you from HPV. This makes it even more imperative that women get the HPV vaccine, because even if you aren't having sex, you could still be at risk for the virus. Thank you so much, Dr. Hammond, for sharing this information with myself and the Centenary students!

Do you love movies?

If so, the Centenary Film society would like to invite you to join us for free movies on Tuesday and Thursday nights.
Movies start at 7pm
and are screened in Carlile auditorium.

On October 9th and 11th we are showing

The Page Turner

The young daughter of a butcher shows great musical talent behind the piano. Her parents decide that she should attend music conservatory. First, she must pass the entrance exam. She is put off by the president of the jury's cruel attitude and fails. Deeply wounded, she spends the next ten years working to become the page turner of the former jury president, waiting patiently to strike revenge.

"Dercourt, a very fine filmmaker, is a musician himself, a music teacher and one-time solo viola player with the French Symphony Orchestra. And he directs, with a musician's precision and an insider's sly wit, the world of classical music performance."
— Michael Wilmington, Chicago Tribune

Debunking Greek myths: recruitment is for everybody

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

I participated in Greek female recruitment, which occurred between September 4 and 9. As a junior who has attended Centenary College for the entire duration of my undergraduate career, I heard a lot of myths about upperclassmen going through female rush.

Three other junior girls also went through recruitment this fall and were exposed to the same rumors. Gretchen Stahl, Assistant Director of Student Involvement, and Amanda Fontenot, Vice President of Recruitment, are determined to dispel these Greek myths and to encourage more upperclassmen to participate in female recruitment next fall.

Myth #1: Sororities will not choose juniors for their new pledge classes.

False. While freshmen are the typical targets of female recruitment, there is no rule in either sorority that juniors cannot be chosen. Stahl and Fontenot said that it can be less favorable to choose a junior because they can only dedicate two years of time to the sorority as opposed to the four years a freshman can offer. It also allows the junior less time to develop training to be a leader in the sorority.

Myth #2: Newly pledged juniors are a financial strain on the sororities due to a financial pyramid.

False. According to Stahl and Fontenot, it is unclear what was the "pyramid" regarding financial needs of each sorority. While it is true that pledge classes slowly lose members during their four years at Centenary, forming a "pyramid" of numbers in each subsequent pledge class, Centenary College's Panhellenic Association does not endorse financial dependency on this. However, each individual sorority's alumnae may reserve the right to encourage the sorority to choose freshmen over juniors for a similar reason, said Stahl.

Myth #3: The four juniors who went through recruitment were chosen because there were not enough freshmen to make quota.

False. A sorority's quota is defined by the number of girls who are invited to attend the third night of recruitment parties, also known as Preference Night, divided in half.

However, according to both Stahl and Fontenot, it did not hurt the juniors' chances that they participated in recruitment with an unusually small amount of freshman girls.

Though is was an unusually non-traditional recruitment attendance for Centenary's Panhellinic Association, Stahl and Fontenot agreed that it was beneficial for the four junior females to participate in recruitment together. "You can't ignore the fact that four juniors went through," said Stahl.

While it is easy to "cut" one junior from recruitment due to age, Fontenot claimed that when upperclassmen participate in groups "it is harder to cut a group than one person." Stahl agrees with Fontenot but also said that all four girls were offered bids based on their personalities, academic merits and campus involvement.

Photos by Emily DeLatin.

Advice from Allison: breaking up is hard to do - faking death is a good last resort

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

The opinions and ideas expressed by this article do not in any way reflect those of Centenary College, the Conglomerate, or the writer herself. In fact, these ideas probably don't express any intelligently informed opinions anyway.

Dear Allison,

I am dating this guy that I am not really compatible with. I want to break up with him but I don't think he will take it very well. He has a tendency to throw temper tantrums and guilt me into changing my mind. What's the best way to break up with someone like this?

-Significant Bother

Dear Bother,

Breaking up with someone is never an easy task. I was once in this situation, and after attempting many of the more accepted forms of breaking up, I finally faked my own death. Granted, I had to make a lot of life changes in order for this guy to keep believing that I am deceased, but it was totally worth it.

Dear Allison,

My roommate has a tendency to play her music too loud and at all hours of the night. I've asked her to turn it down when I am in the room and to wear headphones when I am asleep. She doesn't seem to understand how bothersome it is. What should I do?

-Sleepless Sophomore

Dear Sleepless,

The best way to get rid of irksome noise from your roommate is to manually delete all of the music off her hard drive and iPod. I can promise that there will be no more music coming from her speakers for a while.

Do you have a problem and need Allison's help? Send your issues to Campus Box 202 or e-mail Allison at acormier@centenary.edu

The Jena Six: From participant observation to knowledge intervention

Dr. Loren Demerath
Chair of Sociology Department

The many insightful and powerful comments on the Jena march in last week's issue of the Conglomerate certainly need no commentary from a professor. But, for those of us still struggling to understand what it is we should understand about race, and about our role in fighting all kinds of discrimination, maybe it would help to hear a privileged white guy with lots of sociological education say, I've been struggling too.

The fact is, it took me a long time to get to that march. And I don't mean the drive. The trip from Jackson Hall to Jena was only a couple of hours. But I think it took ten years for me to go from being a Sociology Professor at Centenary, in Shreveport, to being—I hope—a Sociology Professor for Centenary, and for Shreveport.

I wasn't even at that point before we left for Jena. I would explain to my students, to my faculty administration, to the media, to myself, that we were going down to Jena as "participant observers"; that our goal was to use the experiences we'd encounter as participants to understand what's like to protest for social change. It's a classically neutral, objective, positivist science position for a social scientist to take. The goal is to gain knowledge just for the sake of knowledge. Understanding the object of study is the priority.

But there's another role academics are expected to take. It's one not unlike a medical doctor's role, supported by the Hippocratic Oath, where they pledge to help the patient.

There's a similar oath used in Sociology honors fraternities, where we pledge to serve the interests of our patient, society.

I heard it. I pledged it. But I didn't know how to do it, so I largely ignored it. What could I do? What could any white, straight guy like me do? No one needed to know about my experiences. I heard stories of lives like mine told so often I could believe that everyone was telling them.

But they weren't. It was just that white, privileged guys like me have always had the power to be heard.

Recently, though, I've found one of the most fulfilling parts of my professional life is working to show how naïve we all tend to be about the experiences of others; how we all tend to assume that what works for us, would work for them.

Participant observation? How about knowledge intervention? It's not like Sociologists just have research methods to offer. We've uncovered some "hard, cold, facts" too. I've had an awful lot of conversations about Jena with white folks like me, who do think their experience isn't that different from someone like Mychal Bell's, and, therefore, he shouldn't have done such and such.

Why would they think that? I bet it's one of two reasons: they're not young black men living in a place like Jena (or anything close), or, they haven't read the research on what it's like to live in that kind of "social structural position."

Whites that don't read that research will tend to think what I did. I used to think that regardless of your color, schools will provide opportunities for you to succeed, and teachers will have confidence in your ability to take advantage of those opportunities; further, police will work to protect you, and the legal system will treat you fairly. Certainly that was consistent with my experience. My consistently white experience, that is.

But reading sociological research eventually changed my view. I now think that it's not a matter of opinion, or "arbitrarily constructed reality," it's a fact: the experiences of black people in this society are very different from my own, and in ways that can make as much defeatist pessimism in a black person, as it does winning optimism in the white guy writing this.

continued on next page

Photo: Thursday, September 20th - Protesters form a crowd in front of the courthouse in Jena where Mychal Bell was being held. Since then, bail was posted and Bell was released. Photo by Lori von Pingel.

Dr. Demerath's perspective on the Jena Six, continued

Compared to whites, blacks are more likely to be harassed by police, stereotyped or ignored by white peers, overlooked or underestimated by teachers and would-be mentors, and treated as a token by administrators; they're more likely to be seen by whites as less beautiful, less smart, less responsible, less sophisticated, less driven; and most significantly, perhaps, blacks are less likely to be seen by whites as a potential best friend, or lover. Overall, it's obvious: even in this day in age, blacks are more likely to be treated as an "other," by whites; as people somehow different, and, yes, inferior.

The research has also taught me that no one in our society can be "colorblind." Even when whites, or white-dominated institutions, try to see and treat everybody as the same, they can't succeed because whites and blacks have already been treated so differently to that point.

This has specific implications, I might add, for how we can improve our odds of success in our attempts add diversity to our campus: we should note that because discrimination has given people of color different experiences than whites, they'll be more likely to use different paths to success; as a result our college can't locate and recruit them the same way they have for faculty like myself.

But Centenary is beginning to understand that. We're beginning to learn how ignorant we've been about discrimination and the importance of diversity. Now, more of us know that being colorblind won't get us a very colorful environment.

So change happens, but it can take a while.

It took me a long time to get to where I was in Jena. Only recently have I recognized that throughout my life people haven't been colorblind in their evaluation of me. Racism and discrimination have been very much a part of my success. I don't feel guilty about it, because I didn't make society that way, and I wasn't aware it was happening.

But, I guess I would feel guilty if I didn't resist it now.

And maybe that's another part of how looking and sounding like an educated white person not only led me to the point where I became a sociologist in this community, but how I now hope to be a Sociologist for this community.

I have to close, though, by thanking the people in our communities who've modeled for me what it is to serve a community. There are many, each with no small amount of commitment and courage. That fact alone makes me confident of our ability to make progress.

Please e-mail comments to ldemerat@centenary.edu; all feedback, including dialog and collaboration ideas, is welcome.

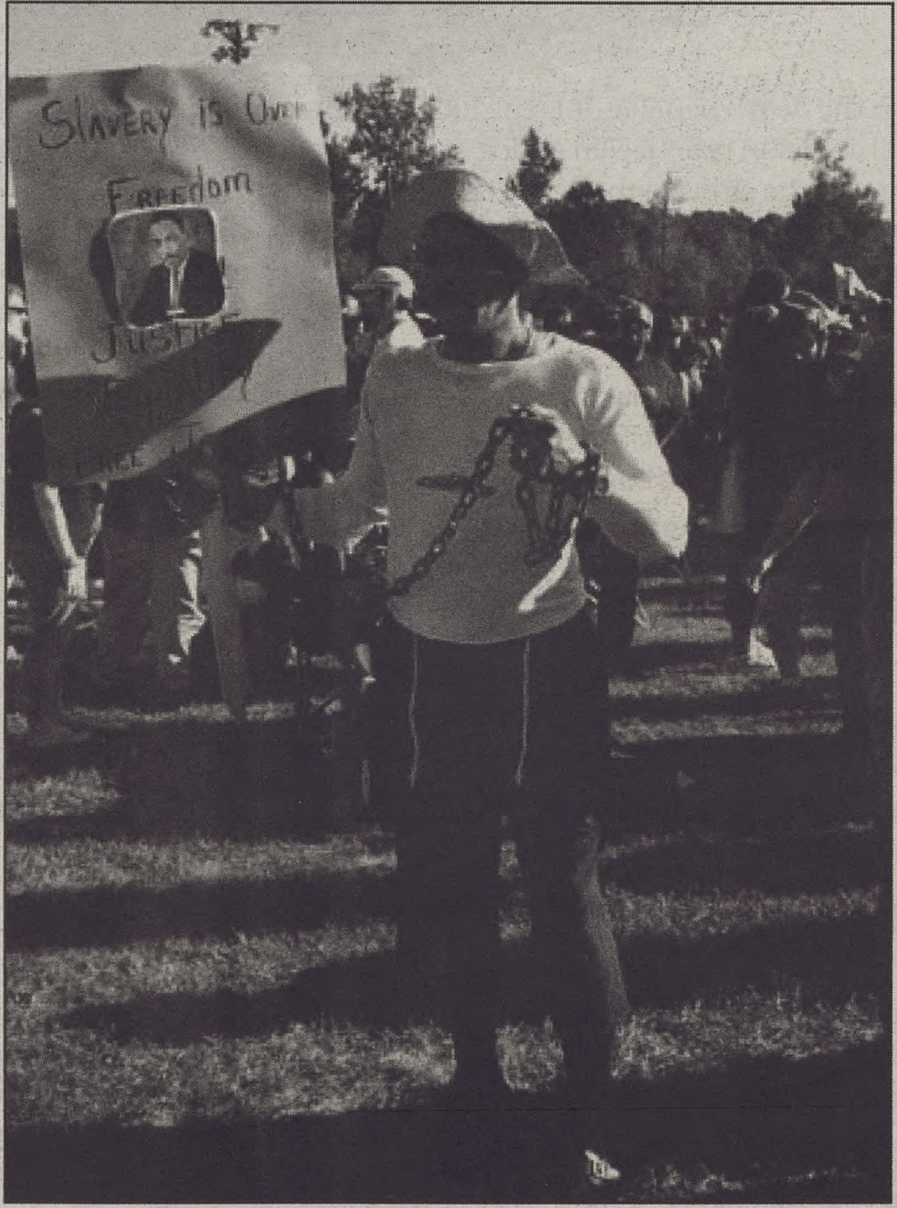


Photo: A protester dressed as a slave at the September 20th rally. Photo by Lori von Pingel.

RECENT JENA 6 HEADLINES

This past Tuesday morning, Mychal Bell and his mother attended a juvenile court hearing at the LaSalle Parish Courthouse. Bell was finally released from jail just last week, September 27th, when Dr. Stephen Ayers of Lake Charles posted $5,400 (the portion of Bell's $45,000 bail necessary for release from jail). His incarceration lasted nearly 10 months.

Other significant monetary contributions have come from celebrities, including David Bowie. The English rock star donated $10,000 to the Jena Six Legal Defense Fund set up by the NAACP as a "small gesture [of his] belief that a wrongful charge and sentence should be prevented" (as told to the Associated Press).

Last Thursday, District Attorney Reed Walters had an op-ed piece printed in The New York Times. In it, Walters argued that although he finds the noose incident deplorable, he cannot legally prosecute the students responsible as it is not technically classified as a hate crime. He stated that his prosecution of the Jena Six for beating up Justin Barker is merely part and parcel of doing his job.

Grambling State University has come under fire from the national press for what many claim is a teaching incident gone too far. On September 20th, the same day as the rally in Jena and various other protests, a teacher placed a noose around a kindergarten student's neck in order to simulate the fear and racism associated with it. Early reports say that the student was completely safe at all times, but an investigation has been launched and the teacher in question is on administrative leave with pay.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS BULLETIN

As reports mount of the military junta authorities in Myanmar killing and seriously injuring peaceful protesters (predominantly monks), Amnesty is urging the United Nations Security Council to impose a comprehensive and mandatory arms embargo on the country.

Rwanda became the latest country to abolish the death penalty. It is the 100th country worldwide to legally abolish capital punishment; 30 countries are abolitionist in practice (in Africa, 14 countries have legally abolished it, while 18 are abolitionist in practice). Rwanda was the site of a massive Tutsi genocide in 1994 and this is seen as a significant positive step for the country. Amnesty continues to campaign for worldwide abolition of the death penalty, including in the United States. In 2006, 91% of all known executions took place in six countries - the U.S., China, Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, and Sudan.

A congressional study released earlier this week announced that the U.S. continues to be the top supplier of arms to developing countries. In 2006, 36% of arms sales were contributed by the U.S., while Russia supplied 28% and Great Britain provided 11%. The Amnesty website www.controlarms.org is dedicated to lobbying the U.N. for an effective Arms Trade Treaty.

Cuba's longest-serving prisoner of conscience, Francisco Chaviano Gonzalez, was finally released after 13+ years of imprisonment.

For more information, visit www.amnesty.org. To find out how you can get involved with the Centenary chapter, contact Group Coordinator Megan Ottesen at mottesen@centenary.edu.

Centenary chapter of Amnesty plans event for Darfur awareness

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

The newly activated Centenary chapter of Amnesty International is planning a Darfur Awareness event for the evening of October 24th.

Amnesty International is dedicated to campaigning for human rights worldwide, and the Centenary chapter hopes to help accomplish that goal by educating the campus and local community about the current humanitarian crisis in the Darfur area of Sudan.

"The national media does cover human rights issues to some extent, but we don't always hear about situations like Darfur, or Rwanda," said faculty advisor and Assistant Professor of Political Science Dr. Philip Barker. "Amnesty International meets a need in that sense – it speaks for the people who can't speak for themselves."

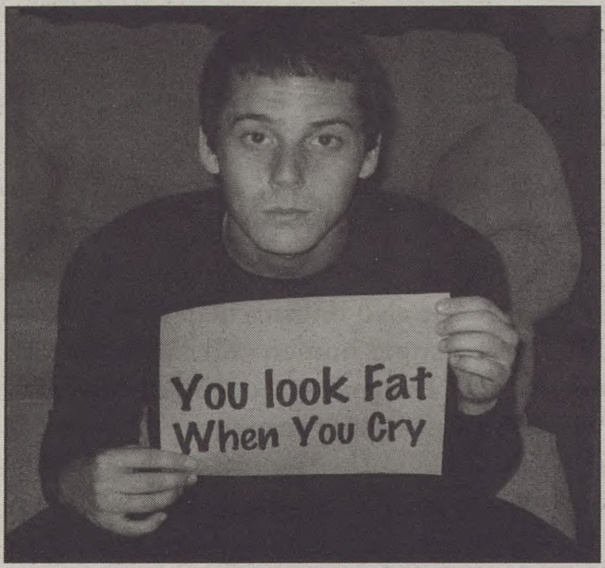
Dr. Barker and the students in the Centenary group emphasize that their goal is not to push opinions on people, but merely to spread awareness and allow people to make their own personal decisions on these important issues. All students and faculty are welcome to Amnesty meetings; though the group has a stated goal of promoting change, it has no political affiliations.

The October 24th event will present a short documentary on the international arms trade and how that affects the Darfur situation, where the Sudanese military and the Janjaweed militia group (primarily Arab) are fighting the Sudanese Liberation Movement and the Justice and Equality movement (primarily minority ethnic groups). The U.S. government has declared the killings a genocide – the estimated death toll is between 200,000 and 400,000. More than 2.5 million have fled into neighboring countries, including Chad, where crises due to the influx of refugees are now happening.

"The people dying in Darfur can't petition the United States government," said Dr. Barker. "But Centenary students can."

For more information or to find out how you can get involved, contact Group Coordinator Megan Ottesen at mottesen@centenary.edu.

Meet Dragan Hinic, a degree-seeking soccer player from Serbia



Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

Congo: Hi, could you introduce yourself to the other students?

Dragan: My name is Dragan Hinic. I'm from Belgrade, Serbia. I'm 20 years old and I'm a freshman at Centenary.

Congo: You're on the soccer team – how do you like it so far?

Dragan: We're good. The results don't show yet, but we're working on it, we really are. Our goal is to go to the conference finals and to win. And then to go to the NCAA tournament at the end. I think that's the order of it. But we'll go as far as we can.

Congo: What's your major?

Dragan: I'm currently undecided because I'm not really familiar with the system here. I'm thinking of going into health and exercise science because that's the way to become a soccer coach. I like working with kids. I think everyone has to start with kids. Then I'll need to work my way to high school and college, and hopefully some day to become a head coach in a big club, maybe in Europe. I also think I'll go for a theater minor, if possible. I just like acting, being someone else.

Congo: How busy is your schedule and how do you like your classes?

Dragan: My schedule is pretty full. Honestly, I took 18 hours to see whether I can balance everything.

The hardest part for me is math. I know it's the universal language and everything is the same, but it's still hard if you don't understand something, so I need someone to explain it to me one-on-one. But besides that, most of my classes are good.

Congo: How do you like it here so far?

Dragan: I like it. People are very friendly and warm. I haven't had the chance to meet as many people as I want, though. My obligations don't allow me much time, because I have homework and I don't want to fall behind. Plus I have the soccer trips.

But so far, it's been good. It can be better, of course, but it's good. The classes are nice and teachers are great – they're always there to help and answer your questions.

Congo: Is this your first time in the United States?

Dragan: Yes. Actually, this was my first time on a plane. It's my first for many things.

Congo: What do you miss the most?

Dragan: Food. Definitely the food.

Congo: What is traditional Serbian cuisine?

Dragan: Well, the difference between here and there is that the meals in Serbia are cooked more. Here, you have canned soup, and in Serbia we cook things.

My mother makes great soup! We cook a lot of meals on water, steam them. One thing I like a lot is stew. Here you have four or five meals that are similar to our stew, but not the same.

Congo: Do you have siblings?

Dragan: I have an older brother; he's 27. My family lives in Serbia.

Congo: Do you talk to your family regularly?

Dragan: Because of the time difference, my family can't call me everyday.

So, we chat a lot online. We call each other on messengers, but their connection isn't always good. They're in the process of getting a better internet connection, and as soon as that comes, we can have webcams, video calls, etc.

Congo: What surprised you the most about the United States and/or Centenary? Dragan: I can't say that I expected anything, because I have a couple of friends already in America.

But I was surprised at how people accepted me. It was very nice of them and I'm thankful for that.

Congo: Your country used to be called Yugoslavia, then Serbia and Montenegro, and after a 2006 referendum, Montenegro became a separate country. Why is that?

Dragan: The thing is that they wanted their own country, so they separated from us.

Actually, at the time I sent an application to Centenary, it was Serbia and Montenegro. At the airport, I had to fill the departure thing and my nationality and passport were from Serbia and Montenegro, Yugoslavia even.

I wrote that my nationality was Serbian and the woman was quite surprised but she figured it out.

There really aren't that many differences between Serbia and Montenegro. The people in Montenegro speak the same language – a different dialect maybe – but that's pretty much it. They're on the sea, and we're inland.

So, the separation wasn't violent. You don't even have to have a passport to go to Montenegro - only an ID, I think. A lot of people from Serbia go to Montenegro, to the seaside, for vacation.

Congo: What are your hobbies, besides soccer?

Dragan: Well, like everyone else, I like to hang out with my friends. I like movies and series a lot. I like books, too; I read all the "Harry Potter" and "Lord of the Rings" novels, and a lot of books in Serbian.

I mainly like action. The latest movies I watched and liked were "Transformers" and "300." I like history too, and since a lot of that was in "300," that's what attracted me to that movie.

I'm also looking forward to the new "Heroes" season.

Congo: I've read that Serbia grows one third of the world's raspberries…

Dragan: Yes, we do! The saddest thing is that people back home don't appreciate that. Other cool things about Serbia are the night life, clubs. And the whole mentality; it's a fast country, people are always doing something.

Congo: If you could hook up with any "Harry Potter" character, who would it be?

Dragan: Well, there's only Hermione, Ginny, Cho…

Congo: Don't forget about the teachers.

Dragan: Not teachers! Well, I saw the movies and from all the characters, definitely Hermione…Yeah, definitely Hermione.

Photo by Mindy McKoin.

A&E

"Good Bad Not Evil" by the Black Lips features great songwriting and great music

Tyler Davis
Staff Writer

When I first heard of the band the Black Lips, I thought, "Oh great... this band is gonna suck. I can tell, because they have a composite band name something between The Flaming Lips and The Black Keys. They are just trying to ride the success associated with other bands!" Well, in retrospect, I can say that I might have acted a little bit neurotic and paranoid. The Black Lips are great and they have plenty of success of their own to ride. The four guys that make up this Atlanta-based band have been together since age 15, and they are now 23 years old. "Good Bad Not Evil" is the title of their newest album, and though they have released several other recordings, this is their first professional record. The Black Lips are a rare sound on the market right now, employing traces of blues, psychedelic, and garage rock to complete their sound. If you are not a fan of psychedelic, don't worry. The sound effects on this album relate more to a subtle inclusion of an altered state of mind, rather than an in-your-face, trippy, head-spinning ride. This isn't just noise, it's great songwriting littered with audio intellect. Track one, "I Saw a Ghost (Lean)" is fashioned after 1960s underground rock tunes. It's a buzzy song with droning, Iggy-esque vocals. And the psychedelic elements on this track include (what sound like) reversed orchestral dubbing and reversed lead guitar with that "sucking" sound that is representative of psychedelic music. Track two is another favorite of mine; "O Katrina" is a song dedicated to those affected by Hurricane Katrina. The lyrics equate Hurricane Katrina to a mean/lovely woman who treats her man unfairly. The song progresses from a buzzy percussion-based intro to a heaving dum-dum tune that when performed live has great potential for leaving one's ears ringing with pleasure. All the tracks on this album are great. However, I just wanted to share a few of my favorites with you. Definitely check out this new album and this wonderful band.

Movie review: The best aspect of "Resident Evil: Extinction" is its short running time

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Horror movies suck nowadays. There, I said it. Don't believe me? Need evidence? Fine, I've got some: "Resident Evil: Extinction." Or how about the entire "Resident Evil" series of movies?

The movie takes place five years after the disaster in Raccoon City in the second movie (which was also terrible). Somehow, the entire world has been infected with the T-Virus and most of the population has turned into zombies.

However, in a weird WTF moment, the virus has also wiped out the world's water supply, so the entire world has become a desert.

Anyway, Alice (Milla Jovovich) is riding around on her motorcycle and killing zombies for the hell of it. She is pointlessly superpowered after the events of the second movie and the Umbrella Corporation is still up to its usual crap: illegal testing, murder, wiping out civilization, etc.

Well, eventually she meets up with a convoy of desert wanderers led by Claire Redfield (Ali Larter) and some of the people from the second movie, and eventually decides to take on Umbrella.

All of this in less than 90 minutes.

The main reason this movie sucks so bad is simple: why should I care? None of these people interest me. They are boring and they have no personality. It's not like I am asking for a lot of character development, but a little would be nice. I don't care if any of these people make it out of the disaster or survive anything. It also doesn't help that Alice is super human and can't be killed. This makes the movie completely devoid of suspense.

The acting is poor. The editing is shoddy at best. There are maybe three action scenes in the entire movie. There isn't really an ending, just another freakin' cliffhanger that promises yet another damn movie in the series. Honestly, would it kill the filmmakers to end one of these movies with a legitimate ending?

So, was there anything good about this movie? The action scenes (what few there were) were fun. This movie actually had some blood and guts for a change (the other movies didn't really have much of either).

It is short (90 minutes), so it doesn't grate on your nerves for far too long. And it also has a return of the best element of the first movie (the laser beams), twice. However, all of this does not add up to a good movie or even a quarter of one for that matter.

My advice is to spend your money elsewhere. Not even wasting your time on this crap would be some other advice I would give. However, if you must see this movie (I'm not sure why), then buy a ticket for a good one, like "3:10 to Yuma" or "Stardust," and then see this movie. Or, better yet, skip this one and see those other two movies, because they are actually good movies and won't make you hate yourself for watching them.

Red River Revel opens with high expectations

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

The annual Red River Revel opened last Saturday, September 29, 2007, and will be running until October 6. According to its website (redriverrevel.com), you can enjoy food from the 24 food booths, 120 visual artists' works, and the five performance stages featuring non-stop entertainment.

Some of the featured entertainers include big names such as Emmylou Harris, Cowboy Mouth, and George Clinton. Local performers include Lee's Kung Fu & Tai Chi Center, Trout Fishing in America, Centenary Suzuki School, and Centenary College's very own Escaped Images Dance Company.

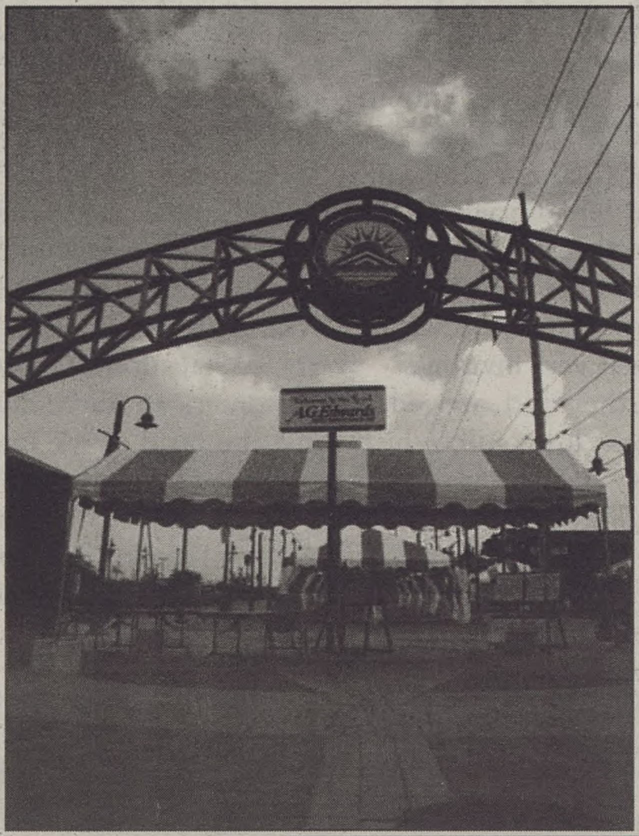
Food booths are available and offer such dishes as crawfish étouffée in bread bowls, turkey legs, muffaletta pizza, spinner spuds, root beer floats, bananas foster bread pudding, roasted corn, Italian ice, and the ever-famous funnel cakes with assorted toppings. All booths are sponsored by groups from the community such as St. Joseph School, Benton Band Boosters, Son's of Italy Heritage Club, and Shreveport Metropolitan Ballet.

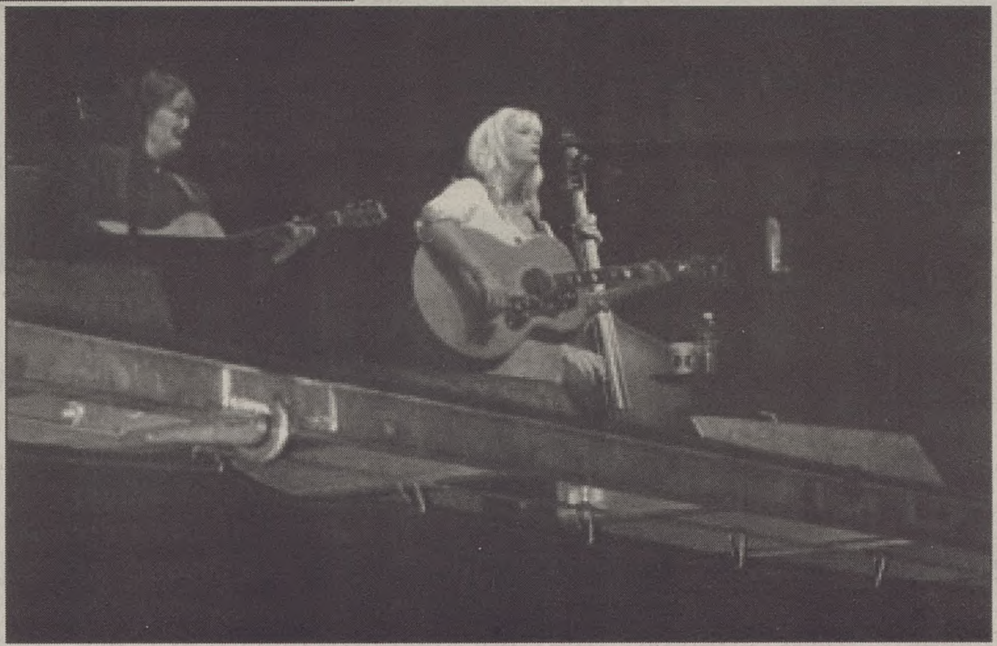
Don't forget the children. There is an area set up just for them. The Mock Geological Dig is always a fun thing to do, even if you're not under ten years of age. Also in this area are activities such as Dr. Bones Activity Center, Kid Fish, the Climbing Wall, and even a Stilt Dancing Workshop.

Some of the featured artists at the Revel are Gabriel Ajayi, Chester Allen, Lauren and Russell Autin, Jose Balli, and many more. Their works can be viewed in the visual artists section near the Toyota Stage.

The Red River Revel promises fun for the entire family. Admission is free Monday all day, Tuesday-Friday until 5:30 p.m., and everyday for children 12 and under when accompanied by an adult.

Admission is $5 on Saturday until 6 p.m., all day Sunday, and Tuesday-Friday after 5:30 p.m. Admission is $10 on Saturday after 6 p.m.. If you want to save money and enjoy all that the revel has to offer, there is an Eight Day Reveler Pass that costs $15. Tickets are available at the Revel Office, Brookshire's, Dee's Photo, and Porter's Fine Dry Cleaning. Shuttles are also available. Check out the website (www.redriverrevel.com) for more information.





Top left: the downtown Festival Plaza. Middle: Emmylou Harris performs at the Red River Revel last Saturday, September 29th. Photos by Emily DeLatin.

FILM INDUSTRY LOCAL NEWS

Tia Landrum
Staff Writer

Barbara Brinkley, Louisiana's only CSA (Casting Society of America) casting director, will begin holding actor "workouts" in Shreveport once a month. With over 30 years of industry experience, Brinkley has cast major films all over the south and will be casting major film projects in Louisiana in the near future. All actors are invited to each workout.

Contact Landrumart@aol.com for more information.

Louisiana Production Consultants are shooting a small feature film between October 29th and November 30th, currently known as the "Untitled Manbreak Project." Chloe Sevigny, Nick Cannon, and Wes Bentley are part of the cast. The film is a psychological thriller directed by Jonathan Liebesman. People interested in being part of the crew should fax resumes to 318-682-5642.

The same company will begin shooting "Wonderful World" with Matthew Broderick on October 17th. Resumes can be faxed to 318-219-2411.

Ta Molly's restaurant in Bossier City offers authentic Mexican food for cheap

Ta Molly's
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

Ta Molly's Mexican Restaurant is one of the newest establishments in North Bossier. Located near the new Target, it offers us "authentic" Mexican food.

The service was pretty exceptional considering the fact that I went after church on a Sunday. It was pretty busy and seemed to be very popular.

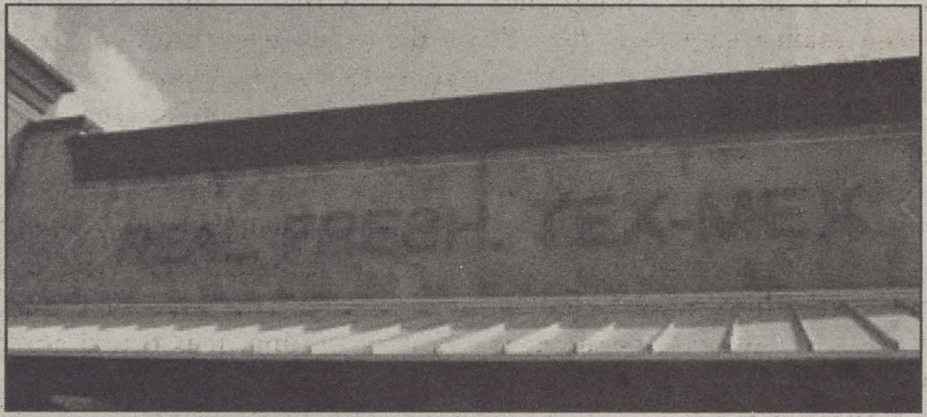
With the first round of chips and salsa, I ordered my food: beef fajitas with cheese. The complementary chips were good, but the salsa was not quite as spicy as it normally is at a Mexican restaurant. I was a little disappointed.

The service was very good. My waitress was extremely nice and very attentive to the table. The drinks were brought in a decent amount of time. As I waited for my food, I took in the atmosphere. Most restaurants of this kind have a rustic and antique feel to them. This one felt like new. It had bright colors and new furniture. There was no Tex-Mex-like decor on the walls (such as cow skulls or wagon wheels). It was very inviting.

When the food arrived, I was already a little full, which is expected when the wait staff keeps bringing you baskets of chips and refilling your salsa. There were only about six strips of beef on my plate, which was kind of disappointing because I had three tortillas to fill. I really don't like adding a whole lot to my fajitas, but there were a lot of extra things on the plate. They more or less fill your plate with beans, rice, and lettuce and just a few pieces of the main course.

However small the portion was, the taste was delicious. It wasn't my favorite, but I enjoyed it nonetheless.

What draws most of the customers to Ta Molly's is not just the taste of the food or the service; it's the price. You can get a lunch special for only seven dollars. I guess this explains the small portions of beef on my plate. Ta Molly's is top-notch on price, but definitely not top-notch on serving size.



Photos by Emily DeLatin.

The H & H Lounge offers local musicians a place to celebrate individuality

Tia Landrum
Staff Writer

In the midst of a suffering music scene, the H & H Lounge hopes to turn around Shreveport's identity slump by offering a venue for local artists to find a genuine and individual sound. As a fan of many local bands, I decided to pay this new venue a visit to find out for myself the true nature of what many of my musician friends are calling "the place to be."

My visit happened to fall on the night of a punk show featuring Shreveport natives Sunday Mass Murder, The Skanks, The Noids!, and the newly-formed Righteous Bucks. Different from most venues in its laid-back and interactive atmosphere, the sincerity of the place struck me as something quite unique in comparison to most local venues.

The owner of the lounge, Ron Hardy, a.k.a. "Tarumbae," addressed us all in a request for any extra musical supplies to replace the instruments and equipment damaged by previous shows. "You have to play hard," he said. "Keep playing hard. Just try to fill the glass back up. We don't make any money; we're just trying to make music happen."

I had the opportunity to speak with Hardy later in the evening, at which point he spoke of his hopes for the music of Shreveport. As a city, he says, driven by "pop" music, Shreveport is lacking in creative identity.

The venue currently offers reggae music on Wednesdays in the form of bands, DJs, and jam sessions for local artists, as well as shows for various genres on the weekends. The goal of the H & H Lounge, as said by Hardy, is to help artists express their individual music for the sake of developing diversity and rebirthing the original roots of Shreveport's musical influence.

When asked what he hoped for young musicians, Hardy replied, "If they're from Shreveport, just to express themselves and to stop trying to be so 'pop.' They need to appreciate their heritage and realize their individual selves."

The H & H Lounge is located at 717 Hope Street in Shreveport, close to Milam Street. For more information and upcoming events, visit www.myspace.com/hhlounge.

Movie review: "Eastern Promises" is a superb and violent character study

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

I am a fan of David Cronenberg's movies. For those who don't know, Cronenberg is a horror director who has made some of the best and most disturbing horror movies ever, bar none. Movies like the remake of "The Fly," "The Dead Zone," and "Scanners" are very intense and scary rides, and recently he has been making a jump into more mainstream fare, like "A History of Violence."

However, the stories may be more mainstream, but the ways they are told are most certainly not.

Now Cronenberg has come out with his newest movie, "Eastern Promises." The movie is about Anna (Naomi Watts), who is a nurse in a maternity ward in London. One night a teenage girl enters the ward, has a baby, and then dies, leaving behind a diary written in Russian. Anna tries to have the diary translated into English so she can understand it, but makes the mistake of taking it to Semyon, a Russian mafia boss who is mentioned in the diary. Naturally, Anna comes in the crossfire of the Russian mob.

Along the way, she meets Nikolai (Viggo Mortenson), who is a driver for the mob and knows where most, if not all, of the bodies are buried. Naturally, Nikolai starts to have some crises of conscience.

The acting in this movie is top-notch. Every actor brings his A-game and it shows. Mortenson makes Nikolai into the most interesting character in the film with his subtle skill. It is obvious that he is performing to the best of his ability. Watts does the best she can with her role, but the character is relegated to the background during large portions of the movie, so she doesn't have as much to work with.

The villains Semyon, played by Armin Mueller-Stahl, and Kirill, played by Vincent Cassel, are over-the-top, but not so much that they ruin the movie. These guys are some nasty pieces of work.

One thing about the movie is the violence level. While there aren't that many violent scenes, the ones that are there are gross and disturbing, which is typical in Cronenberg films. The first scene alone will determine what you can stomach. This type of violence isn't the kind that you enjoy watching. It is brutal and realistic and makes you hate yourself for watching it.

This is really apparent in the bath house fight. While people are talking about the fact that Mortenson is naked (you see everything), what really sets the fight apart is the sheer amount of brutality on screen. Pretty much everything on these guys is either bleeding or not there anymore (save Mortenson's junk).

Another word of caution is that the movie is very slowly paced. Everything in the movie is there for a reason and it takes its time putting the elements in place and letting everything play out. This movie is not an action movie or a typical suspense movie, but more of a violent character study.

This movie is absolutely superb and is worth the time, money, and effort of watching it. That is, if you can stomach the violence.

DVD review: "The Office, Season Three" is a great comedic investment

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

The much-anticipated third season of "The Office" has finally been released on DVD and it is in no way disappointing. The critically acclaimed television series stays true to its dry and awkward humor in its twenty-one forty-minute episodes and two full hour episodes.

After Jim Halpert (John Krasinski) accepts that office crush Pam Beasley (Jenna Fischer) intends to marry her fiancé of three years, he leaves for a new position at the Stamford branch of Dunder-Mifflin. Jim begins dating co-worker Karen. At the beginning of the third season, it is apparent that Pam had called off her summer wedding and is once again single.

The Scranton branch is tagged for closure but due to problems at the Stamford branch, a merger brings members of the Stamford branch to Scranton, bringing Jim back to the office. One by one, the Stamford transplants quit due to Michael Scott's (Steve Carell) management style, leaving Jim, Karen, and Andy.

Despite a few personnel changes at the Scranton branch, the show is not ruined by new characters Karen and Andy. In fact, both Stamford transfers provide a new dimension of awkward to the Scranton office.

The DVD set also has many fun bonus features, such as the Scranton parody of SNL's "Lazy Sunday," appropriately called "Lazy Scranton." The deleted scenes and episode commentaries are also just as funny as the final cut of the show.

In addition, "Toby Wraparounds" provides a humorously depressing view into the life of the often forgotten human resource manager. With more bonus features than the previous "Office" season DVDs, the third season is a great investment for your DVD collection.

Take My Advice

Writing Lab	Magale Library 1A Sunday - Thursday	**8:00-10:00pm**
Math Lab	Wright Math Building Sunday - Thursday	**6:00-8:00pm**
Subject Labs	Magale Library 1A	**6:00-9:00pm**
Biology	Monday & Tuesday	
Economics	Monday & Tuesday	
French	Sunday & Monday	
German	Thursday	
History	Sunday & Wednesday	
Physics	Thursday	
Political Science	Sunday & Wednesday	
Psychology	Thursday	
Religious Studies	Monday & Tuesday	
Spanish	Wednesday	

Academic Resource Center for Students (arcs)

Learning and all ARCS services are free to all Centenary Students. If you have any questions contact Dr. Meg Webber or Dr. Kim VanHoosier-Carey at arcs@centenary.edu

www.centenary.edu/arcs

Movie review: "The Game Plan" is a good Disney family comedy

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

"The Game Plan," starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson ("The Scorpion King," "Gridiron Gang") and Madison Pettis ("Corey in the House") is an excellent movie that I recommend to those who enjoy a good family comedy. It has been a while since a good-natured family comedy was released from Disney and was not too cheesy. With few inconsistencies with today's society, "The Game Plan" scores a touchdown.

Dwayne Johnson plays Joe Kingman, quarterback for the Rebels. He is an excellent but selfish football player. He has a model fiancée, but when she is traveling, which is often, it is just him and his dog, Spike.

One day, out of the blue, there is a knock on his door. Peyton enters, claiming to be the eight-year-old daughter he never knew he had from his previous wife. Kingman, hesitant at first and to the dismay of his agent Stella Peck, (Kyra Sedgwick from "The Closer"), agrees to watch Peyton for the month her mother is in Africa. Pettis' character is reminiscent of Dakota Fanning's in "Uptown Girls," but that is acceptable in family movies.

Peyton and Kingman go through a plethora of happenstances, from Joe leaving Peyton at a nightclub and Peyton saving the backlash that followed at a press conference to Peyton getting Joe to perform in her ballet recital. Seeing The Rock in his leotard is worth the movie ticket alone.

The inconsistencies with the movie involve primarily technology used in today's society. It was not believable to the audience that Peyton had a T-Mobile Sidekick but didn't know what an iPod was. Also, Kingman's house, which was equipped with a $10,000 bed, shrine to Elvis Presley, closet filled with nothing but gifts for ladies from Chanel, and a state-of-the-art remote control which controlled everything in the house and even had a romance button, did not have TiVo. Nevertheless, the inconsistencies did not take away from the movie.

The climax of the movie brings lies to light, some predictable, others not. The movie also does a good job of balance. Kingman's chaotic personal life is mirrored by his hectic professional life, which culminates at the Super Bowl.

"The Game Plan" is a typical Disney family movie. There are a few twists and turns in the plot, but none are dramatic enough to derail from a family comedy's tone. If you are in the mood for a good family comedy, I recommend "The Game Plan."

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SPORTS

Intramurals: Ten second sports interview

Thomas Wartelle
Staff Writer

For those seeking a proactive way to vent stress or have fun, Centenary intramurals, played on Jones-Rice Field or in the Fitness Center, are great ways to get involved and meet new people through friendly athletic competition. A wide range of sports are offered throughout the school year, from flag football to softball and nearly everything in between. Not the most athletic person around? Try your hand at bowling or ultimate Frisbee. Whatever your sports forte, Centenary probably has something for you. I recently interviewed sophomore Cole Campbell, one of the most active players for the TKE fraternity, to find out what intramurals were all about.

TW:" Why do you play intramurals?"

CC: "I love competition and it's a good way to stay in shape."

TW: "Would you say that intramurals have the potential to enrich the lives of Centenary students?"

CC: "Definitely; I think that intramurals give people not normally associated with athletics the chance to get involved and meet new people."

TW: "What is your favorite sport and why?"

CC: "Soccer; I've been playing my whole life and I never lose. I also like softball, because I played baseball from age five to high school and it brings back nostalgic memories of my childhood."

Students participate in intramural flag football

TW: "How many sports are you involved in?"

CC: "All available, except rugby and lacrosse."

So next time you get bored or need to blow off some steam, find a sport that interests you, get some friends together, and head out to Jones-Rice Field for an experience you won't forget.

Athlete of the week: Volleyball player speaks highly of Jessica Biel

Ryan Thacker
Staff Writer

Full Name: Ashlee McCall Freeman
Nick Name: It's Ash on the court.
Classification: Junior
Major: Health and Exercise Science
Hometown: Houston, Texas
Sport: Volleyball

How long have you been playing?

I started playing in seventh grade, so going on nine years, but I didn't get serious about it until my sophomore year in high school.

Why did you choose to come to Centenary?

Because I was recruited for volleyball, for the scholarship, and because it's close enough to home, but not too close.

What has been your greatest achievement?

So far, breaking Centenary volleyball records every year.

Describe yourself in one word.

I don't think there is only one word to describe me, but I guess I would say "laid back".

What one thing grosses you out the most and why?

Gross un-taken-care-of feet and hands. I just think it looks bad (it's called personal hygiene).

If you could have any actress play you in a movie, who would it be and why?

Definitely Jessica Biel. Well, obviously because she's really hot and has a rockin' body, but also because she always has fun and has a great attitude about life.

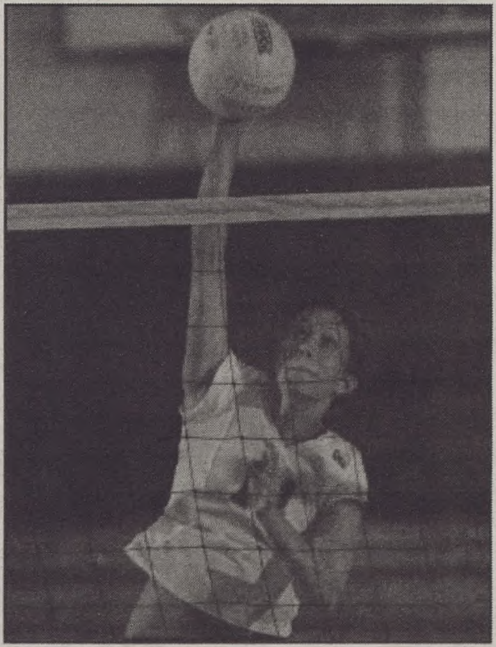


photo courtesy of GoCentenary.com

Jarboe Jabber of the Week: Bump, set, I can't hear you!

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

It was Friday night and I was glad classes were over. My week had been long, hectic, and gut-wrenching. After grabbing dinner from the Caf, I headed across Kings Highway where two women's teams were both having match-ups. I was forced to make a decision. Would I veer left and watch the soccer Ladies play Nicholls State or go right and watch the volleyball Ladies play the Jaguars of IUPUI. After a few moments of pondering my decision, I had my path chosen for me when a few of my Kappa Sig friends moved me along towards the Gold Dome to watch the volleyball team. It was the greatest move I could have made.

Walking in, we made it just in time for the Centenary Ladies to be introduced for the game. As each player was called, they threw a volleyball signed by all the players on the team to random fans in the stands. Yvonne Ramirez, one of the coolest chicks on campus, saw me as I walked in and threw it my direction where I was able to snag it in the air off a bounce. As the game went on, I looked around to see that the stands were practically empty. I was pissed. Besides a few baseball players, gymnasts, basketball team members, and other various individuals, there was no one for the first two games of the match. Where are we, fans? We need to work out some kind of system where one team is not favored over the other. Why wouldn't you want to see the volleyball Ladies? Firstly, they're awesome people and put on a good show whether they win or lose. Secondly, they get really pumped when they smash a ball in their opponents face (a lot of blood... it's kind of gruesome, come to think of it). And finally, these Ladies are so fine. Every one of them. This is, of course, not written with any negative regards to the soccer Ladies who ripped out the pony-tails of Nicholls State. Soccer just has so many fans that come out to the games that even the swimmers tailgate and eat right next to the field (which is nothing new, since the swimmers eat like wild boars in the primal mating season).

In summary, win or lose, come and watch our volleyball team throughout the rest of the season. They really are hard-working women (like the soccer team and the rest of the Ladies sports department) who deserve all the students on the campus coming out and going crazy at each match. I'm looking forward to the upcoming match against Jackson State on October 9th at 6 p.m. Rise up, Centenary! Let's get out there and cheer for our team. Spike!

Conglomerate presents: Life of a Centenary athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

photo courtesy of GoCentenary.com

One hot, long day at the ballpark was nothing less than a great day. We suited up in our black pants and black tops to find ourselves preparing for our 9:30 a.m. game. This was our first fall tournament, where we prepare all fall to show off in front of a home crowd. We didn't perform to our fullest. It was an all day event; some hung around to work shifts in between games. Come 5:30 p.m., we were back and ready to take revenge on anyone who dared to step on our field. By then it had cooled down. Our crowd grew, and energy quickly picked up. We were ready to play, and it showed. A double header at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. usually makes the team focus and enjoy playing. Our bats came alive and our pitching was flawless. We owned both Northeast Texas and ETBU, both offensively and defensively. Our day ended on a positive note and our team is looking better than before. It is all about improving and learning from mistakes!

Come out and support us one last weekend this fall on Saturday, October 6, at 9:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. We host Louisiana Tech at 7:30 p.m. for the final game this fall. We're looking forward to seeing everyone!

"I come to play everyday."
–David Ortiz, Boston Red Sox

LSU football team picked as number one in the nation

Todd Johnson
A&E Editor

After nearly fifty years, Louisiana State University fans are rejoicing after learning that their Tigers football team has finally been picked by the Associated Press as the number one team in the nation.

It all happened on Saturday afternoon when the AP released their poll, with LSU pulling ahead of perennial power University of Southern California with 33 first place votes. USC had 32.

However, USC still remains in the number one spot on the USA Today and Harris polls, which are the polls responsible for the BCS rankings. Those rankings, for those not in the know, determine who plays in what bowls at the end of the season. If LSU remains at the number two spot in those polls, then they will play in the Superdome in New Orleans on January 7th.

The last time LSU was the number one team on the Associated Press poll was in 1959, but that was until they were beaten by Tennessee in November of that year. That means that Tiger fans have been waiting for this moment for 48 years.

The irony of this entire story, however, is that LSU was down 9-7 in the first half against Tulane on Saturday when the poll was being voted on. LSU would eventually take the lead by one before the half ended. LSU would later end up winning the game 34-9. USC played Washington, with USC becoming the victor with a score of 27-24.

However, the season is a long way from being over, as the Tigers will have to play number nine Florida on Saturday in what

Horoscopes

Inspired by Tibetan Proverbs

Aries (3/21-4/20) "A secret is no secret if two people know it."

Taurus (4/21-5/21) "Slow work sometimes means good work."

Gemini (5/22-6/21) "To spread the news is to multiply it."

Cancer (6/22-7/23) "The wise man's wealth lies in good deeds that follow ever after him."

Leo (7/24-8/23) "There is no eye like understanding, no blindness like ignorance."

Virgo (8/24 –9/23) "Cling not to experiences; they are ever-changing."

Libra (9/24-10/22) "If one desires to have true happiness, one must be perfect in suffering."

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) "If the inner mind is not deluded, the outer deeds will not be wrong."

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) "Excellent people are honored wherever they go."

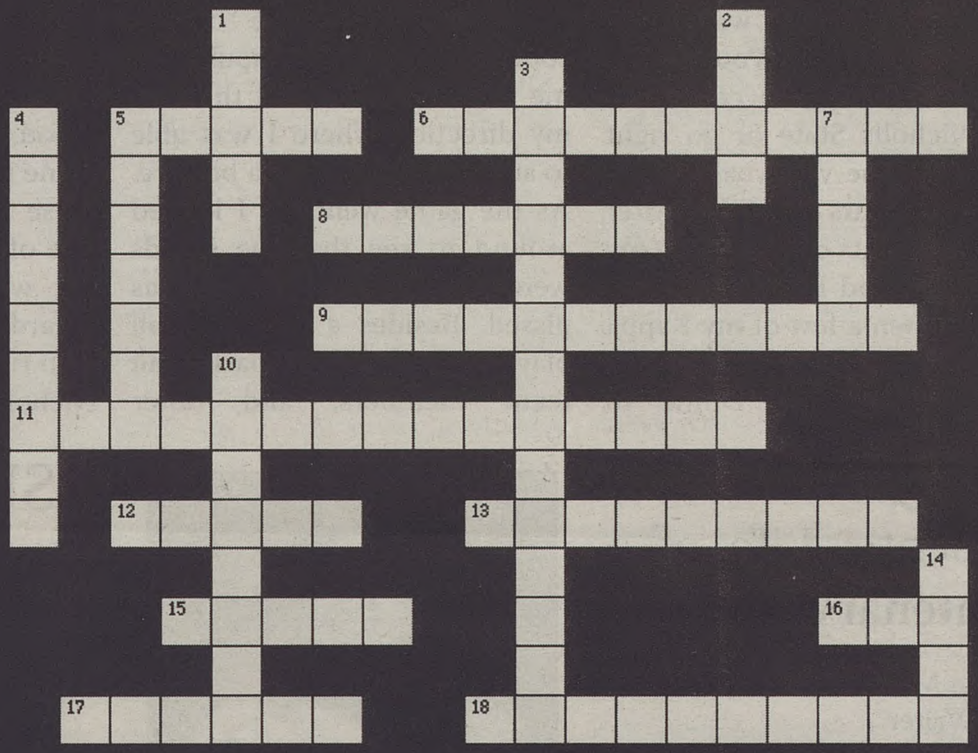
Capricorn (12/22 –1/20) "The wise understand by themselves; fools follow the reports of others."

Aquarius (1/21-2/19) "Goodness speaks in a whisper, evil shouts."

Pisces (2/20-3/20) "If you want to know your future, look at what you are doing in this moment."

Crossword Puzzle: It's all about Britney!

How well do you know Britney Spears?



ACROSS

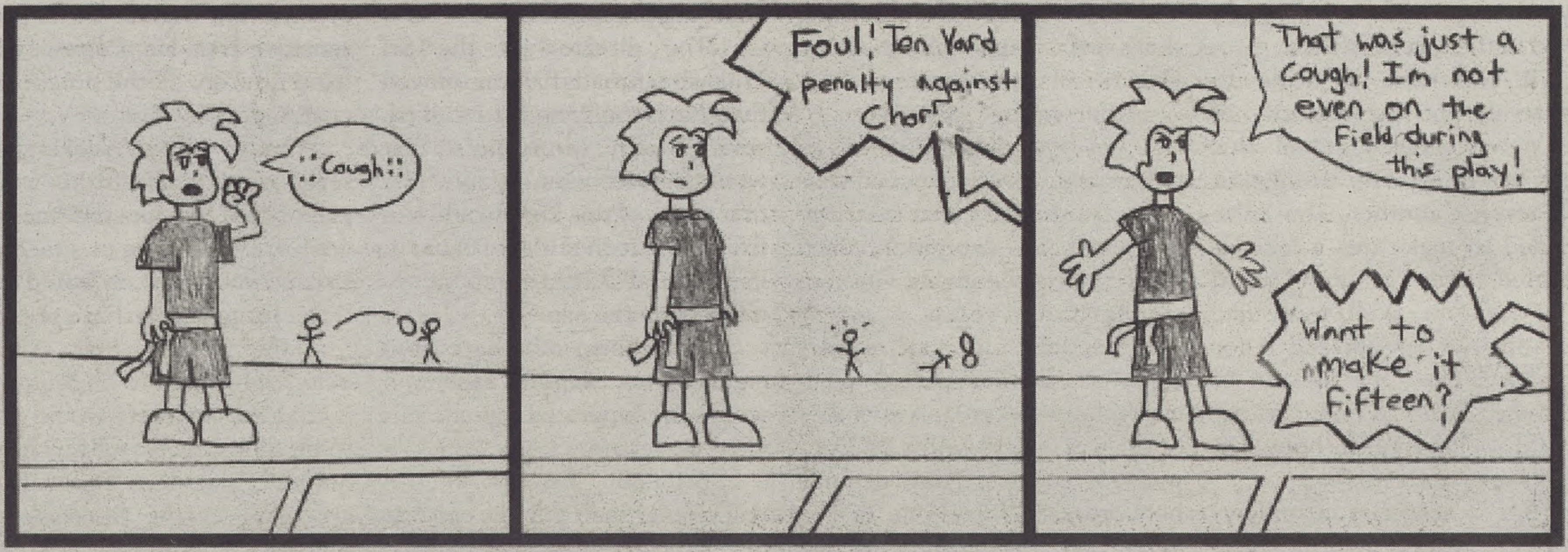
5. "You Drive Me _____"
6. First son
8. Her own perfume!
9. Made a guest appearance on this show starring Debra Messing and Eric McCormack
11. Disney-sponsored show also starring Justin Timberlake and Christina Aguilera
12. "____ ____ Baby One More Time"
13. Little sister's name
15. "I'm Not a Girl, Not Yet a ______"
16. How many kids she has
17. Second son
18. Starred in this 2002 movie

DOWN

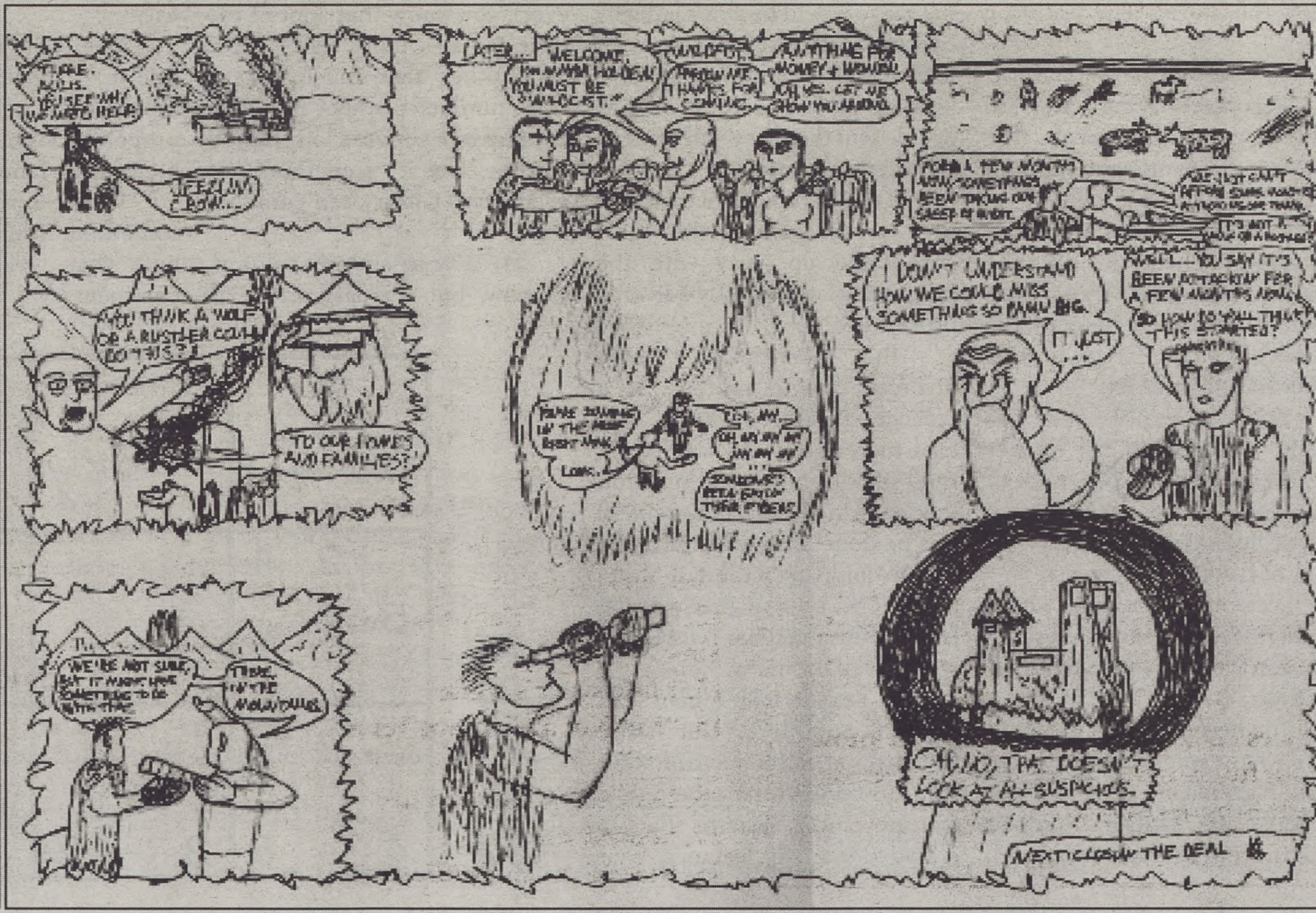
1. "I'm a _____ 4 U"
2. Ex-husband's nickname
3. Childhood friend and first husband (for a second)
4. "______ I run, _______ I cry"
5. She starred in this reality show with her now ex-husband
7. "Don't you know that you're ______"
10. Hometown
14. "_______ I Did it Again"

A Day with Christ

by Chris Christ


::Cough::
Foul! Ten Yard penalty against Chor!
That was just a cough! I'm not even on the Field during this play!
Want to make it fifteen?

Wildfist By John Bonner


THERE. BULLS. YOU SEE WHY WE NEED HELP.
JEEZUM CROW...
LATER...
WELCOME, I'M MAYOR HOLDEN! YOU MUST BE "WILDFIST."
WILDFIST. ANDREW ME. THANKS FOR COMING.
ANYTHING FOR MONEY + WOMEN.
OH YES. LET ME SHOW YOU AROUND.
FOR A FEW MONTHS NOW SOMETHING'S BEEN TAKING OUR SHEEP AT NIGHT.
WE JUST CAN'T AFFORD SUCH ATTACKS MUCH MORE.
IT'S NOT A WOLF OR A RUSTLER.
YOU THINK A WOLF OR A RUSTLER COULD DO THIS?!
TO OUR HOMES AND FAMILIES?
YOU'RE STANDING IN THE MIDST RIGHT NOW. LOOK.
OH, MY...
OH MY MY MY MY MY MY ...
SOMEONE'S BEEN EATIN' THEIR FIBERS
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW WE COULD MISS SOMETHING SO DAMN BIG.
IT JUST...
WELL... YOU SAY IT'S BEEN ATTACKIN' FOR A FEW MONTHS NOW.
SO HOW DO Y'ALL THINK THIS STARTED?
WE'RE NOT SURE, BUT IT MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT.
THERE, IN THE MOUNTAINS.
OH, NO, THAT DOESN'T LOOK AT ALL SUSPICIOUS.
NEXT: CLOSIN' THE DEAL

Strange but true news: marriage expiration dates and tickets for prostitution

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

As I was painstakingly searching the World Wide Web for the most interesting occurrences to write about in my column, I noticed a sort of a trend in the recent stories.

It took me a while to realize it, but the majority of the newsworthy material this week has to do with women, in one way or another. Thus, I've decided to make this a female-oriented issue of my "weird news" column. Well, more like the universe has decided it for me, but I need the illusion of control in order to maintain my mental well-being (I hope Dr. Weeks is reading this).

But whether you pillow-fight and always diet or have abundant chest hair and never ask for directions, I think you will enjoy the stories I'm featuring today.

So, read on!

1) Forget shaving your head bald or going into rehab. The newest road to instant stardom is through vomiting on live TV.

Eva Nazemson, a seemingly unordinary hostess on the Swedish channel TV4 Plus, recently became a hero of the masses after a very atypical video of her hit the internet.

The young presenter was taking yet another call on her live TV game show when all of a sudden she, yes, threw up – rather violently, may I add – in front of the TV audience.

So, you're thinking, what's the big deal? It's not something you don't see at frat parties all the time.

The deal is not the act itself – it's what came later. For brave Miss Nazemson, after several seconds off screen, jumped back in front of the camera and, blaming cramps for the unlucky occurrence, went on with the show.

I'm just glad little girls are finally getting a role model other than Miss Teen "the Iraq" South Carolina.

2) Some call it the best thing that's ever happened to them. Others call it the worst.

Marriage.

Let's cut right to the chase: a Bavarian politician, Gabriele Pauli, is proposing that marriage be given an expiration date. How long is she giving German couples? Seven years.

Needless to say, Pauli's idea has shocked pretty much everyone who cares. A member of the CSU party with a Ph.D. in political science, Pauli defends her proposal, claiming that a lot of marriages are just for the show anyway.

And it's not like the marriage would be automatically cancelled after seven years. It's just that, after seven years have passed, the couple would have to decide whether they still want to be together or not.

If they'd rather not continue their relationship, the new law would do away with the frustrating and costly divorce procedures.

The 50-year-old, twice divorced, single mother of a teenage daughter believes that trial marriage is the way to go. But I stand behind my conviction that any kind of marital problem can be done away with during a month-long stay at the nail-biting clinic (OK, I swear that was the last nail-biting clinic reference I will ever make in my life).

3) Sexual harassment can happen anywhere. But there is hardly a better environment for it to flourish than the public transportation system. Take a crowded train, for instance - that hand that just brushed your butt could have belonged to anyone. At least, you hope it was a hand.

Which is why I'm sure all of you will applaud the efforts that northern India's administration is making in order to end this belittling practice.

The director of the Sri Prakash railroads has announced that he is pushing to establish several train connections that would service women only. The first trains of this kind would run from Delhi to the cities of Panipat, Palwal and Aligarh (about 90 miles from the capital).

The trains would have from eight to ten wagons each and would be operated by an all-vfemale personnel.

Brilliant idea… not. If you've ever seen a single episode of "Desperate Housewives" (which is pretty much the most realistic TV portrayal of women ever), you know that a lot of the time females don't really LIKE each other that much. Put a large number of them in highly confined space over a long period of time, and it's something not even Marc Cherry can come up with.

4) Way to end my column, I know, but the last article is about prostitution. At least it's an effort to make prostitution less appealing to its clients. See, now it doesn't sound so bad.

Anyway, the Italian Minister of Internal Affairs, Giuliano Amato, wants to hit the prostitution market in its most sensitive area. He proposes that, from now on, all the prostitutes' customers get fined.

Thus, a man seeking the services of a prostitute would get a ticket just like the one he'd get for, say, parking or speeding. Except, you know, it would be a ticket for paying to have sex.

The reason that Amato believes his plan to be foolproof is that these tickets would have to be sent directly to the clients' homes. That way, the wife or girlfriend of the fined person might get a better clue as to what her partner has been doing on all those "business" trips to Atlantic City.

Interestingly, Italy's neo-fascist senator, Francesco Storace, has criticized Amato's proposal, claiming that it would break apart families.

I've been trying to think of something funny in response, but that really needs no commentary.

Sudoku

	8		6		7	2		4
				9				
					4	3	7	
	2	4						1
5	6						3	2
1						4	8	
	5	3	1					
				4				
4		6	2		3		9	

The Conglomerate

October 12, 2007 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 7

What's Happening

Early voting opportunities available this weekend for the October 20th election

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Interested voters can now cast ballots early in Caddo and Bossier Parishes for the statewide election to be held on October 20th. Voters will be selecting a new governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and secretary of state, among other local and state officers.

Today and tomorrow, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the Caddo Registrar of Voters Office and the Bossier Registrar of Voters Office are allowing people with a government form of identification (like a driver's license) to cast their votes.

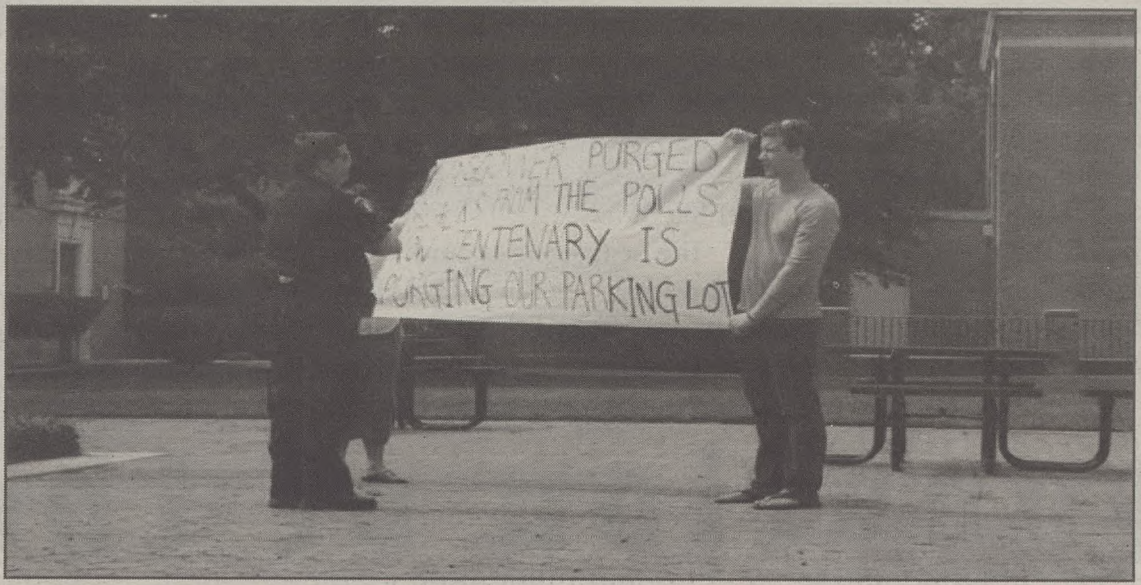
Early voting began last Saturday and ends tomorrow, October 13th.

The Caddo office is located at 525 Marshall Street in Suite 103. The phone number is 318-226-6891.

The Bossier office is located at the Bossier Courthouse in Benton on the second floor. The phone number is 318-965-2301.

To see a sample ballot and/or find your polling precinct, visit the Louisiana Secretary of State's website at www.sos.louisiana.gov.

Student protest halted by DPS



Versha
Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

On Tuesday, October 9th, two students held a sign questioning the college's real commitment to diversity and protesting the parking policy Centenary adopted for Joe Waggonner's funeral services.

James King and Amanda Russell, both seniors and Political Science majors, held a sign reading "Waggonner purged blacks from the polls, now Centenary is purging our parking lot" while standing in the brick sitting area between Mickle Hall and Magale Library. Funeral services were scheduled to start at 2:00 p.m. in Brown Chapel. King and Russell stood and held the sign at 1:30 p.m. – and approximately five minutes later, Director of Public Safety Zeke Aull asked them to put the banner down. The students complied and left.

Waggonner served nine terms as a congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives and is best known in Louisiana for his planning and help in funding Interstate 49.

continued on page 3

Photo by Emily DeLatin.

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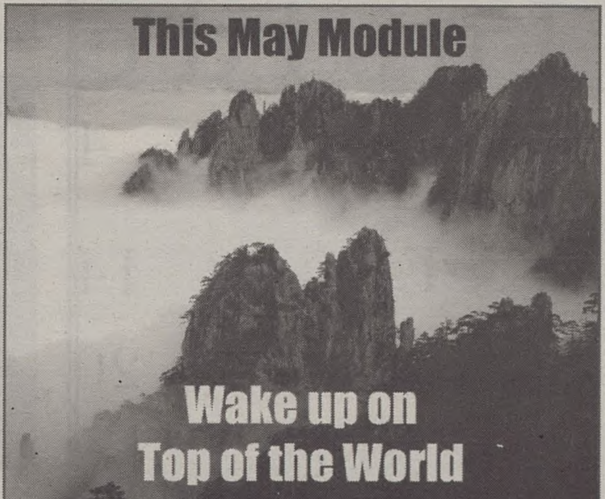


Huangshan or Yellow Mountain, Day #12 Itinerary
Movie location: Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
EDUC 199B: The Xia Dynasty to the 2008 Olympics:
Chinese Culture 101 as Multidisciplinary Educational Program Model

Letter from the Editor: I try not to sound like a tool, but it happens

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Earlier this week, I had a bit of a mental breakdown. A combination of recent events in local, national, and international news and politics led me to it. It might have started last Thursday, when I read an article on the front page of The New York Times about Rudy Giuliani that actually included the word "puh-leeze" – I thought about all the detractors of The Conglomerate and wondered if they noticed these things, and also felt scared for the future of journalism.

It continued this week with Joe Waggoner's funeral on Tuesday. Two peers of mine notified me the morning of his services that Waggoner was not the bipartisan hero the local press was painting him out to be (and I hope that you read more in the next few pages about his life and work). They later made a sign protesting the campus parking policy for that day and the very next, The Shreveport Times coverage announced nothing of it.

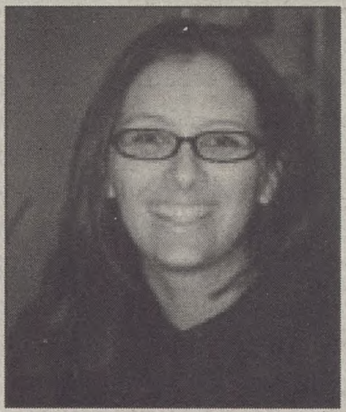
The capstone came on Wednesday, when President Bush announced his complete lack of support for a resolution labeling the deaths of 800,000 Armenians genocide by the Turkish government in 1914. Again, I hope you read more about this in the pages to come – and this hope, realized, is when it hit me that I had no reason for a mental breakdown.

I was frustrated by the clear bias the local press was showing. I was frustrated by the unwillingness of the national press to hold the White House accountable. Most of all, however, I was frustrated that I could do nothing about it. What job is there, within my reach and grasp, that will call the attention of the public to these issues that I find most important, the very same issues that are being swept under the carpet?

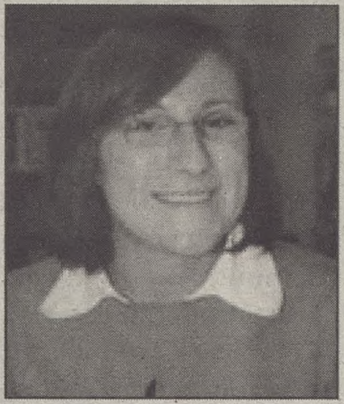
The answer is in these pages. This is the small campus newspaper of a small liberal arts college, but it exists. We've given fellow students space to voice their opinions and research on Waggoner, on the Armenian genocide, on issues that other newspapers and media outlets are not covering to the best of their abilities – and that's all we can do. I don't pretend to think that this paper has a wide circulation or impact, but I'm proud of it, and I'm happy to think that at least I'm doing my part to educate our community.

Question of the Week

WHAT DO YOU WISH YOU WERE DOING FOR FALL BREAK?



"Deciding what to do on May 11th." - Liz Downes, Senior



"Shopping in New Orleans." -Amanda Fontenot, Senior

"Going to the beach." -Ashley Johnston, Junior

"Sleeping." - Rebecca Skelton, Senior

"Going to NYC with the guys." - Sarah Eich, Senior

"Being in New Orleans - which is what I'm doing!" Cecilia Chea, Senior

Inside

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FEATURES

Student protest halted by DPS, cont. from front page

The basis of the students' protest was principal research by Russell which indicated, in his own words, that Waggonner was an active segregationist who lobbied for discriminatory legislation against blacks to be passed by Congress. He campaigned on promises to end the Civil Rights Commission and corresponded with state legislator Willie Rainach on the resettlement of blacks in Africa, as evidenced by primary documents Russell studied at the LSUS library. (Rainach is best known for leading massive resistance to desegregation in Louisiana in the 1950s.) For more information about Russell's findings, please see page 6.

When King asked Aull under which campus policy the request came, he received no cited policy, but was told the orders came from the Dean of Students (Lori Bradshaw). Bradshaw never specifically talked to King and Russell, but Chaplain Betsy Eaves did engage the two students in a conversation about the nature of the protest. The Conglomerate's attempts to contact the Director of Public Safety and the Dean of Students yielded no new information or perspectives on the event.

"We were not protesting Joe D. Waggonner being laid to rest," said King. Russell added that "it wasn't right to make Centenary students and employees move their cars."

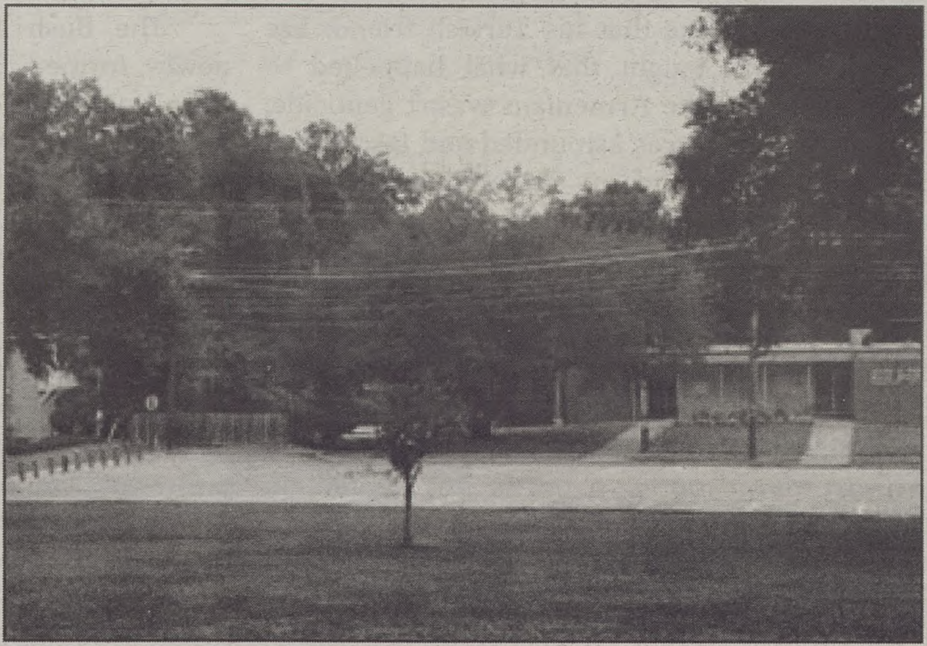
The two students have already been met with skepticism from fellow students and Centenary faculty about such a reason, possibly trite, for protesting. "It was about Centenary's willingness to force all students and employees to move their cars, including minority students, for someone who used his power as U.S. Representative to subjugate a group of people based on their race," said King, "but it's also more than the parking policy we were angry about. "

"Centenary College is first and foremost an institution of higher learning, not a church. Yes, we're affiliated with the Methodist church, and yes, we have a chapel on campus, but our primary function is to educate students of all backgrounds," said King.

Brown Chapel and the Methodist organizations of Centenary were not the only college staff involved in the event. DPS officers were present, Centenary administrators were present with name tags, and the Maroon Jackets were asked to participate – "all for someone who does not embody the values of our school," said King.

Russell emphasized that their actions demonstrate that they did not want to hurt the family or funeral attendees with their protest. "We didn't want to cause a scene or disrupt the service; our primary focus is on Centenary," she said.

Centenary faculty who supported Russell and King's actions have pointed out that Waggonner was a public figure. His actions and legislation, which affected the public in a substantial way, warrant public discourse.



Pictured: The parking lot in front of Magale was reserved for services Tuesday afternoon. Photo taken by Emily DeLatin on Tuesday afternoon.

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EDITORIALS

Bush displays blatant and alarming hypocrisy on genocide

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

On Wednesday, President Bush openly lobbied against a House resolution that would recognize the killing of 800,000 (some estimate up to 1.5 million) Armenians in Turkey during World War I as genocide. Armenians were deported and subjected to concentration and labor camps, starvation, firing squads, mass burning, poisoning, and drowning on the orders of then-Minister of War Ismail Enver and the Ottoman Empire Special Organization.

Bush, with whom Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates have joined, said the passage of the resolution would cause "great harm" to the current U.S. relationship with Turkey, a key ally in the ongoing war on terror (CNN.com).

The President also said he regrets what happened to the Armenians in 1915, going so far as to call them "historic mass killings" – but not genocide. Interestingly enough, when Bush was Governor of Texas in 2000 and making a bid for the Republican presidential nomination, he wrote a letter to Armenian-Americans speaking of "the genocidal campaign" to which their ancestors were subjected. The letter can be found at www.anca.org, the official website of the Armenian National Committee of America.

Bush wrote in the letter that said genocidal campaign "commands all decent people to remember and acknowledge the facts and lessons of an awful crime in a century of bloody crimes against humanity." Perhaps it should come as no surprise that a campaigning Bush feels, thinks, and writes much differently than a lame-duck Bush, but the blatant hypocrisy in his words of 2000 and his words now cannot be ignored.

The most infuriating part of the letter comes in the promise that, if elected President, "[he] would ensure that our nation properly recognizes the tragic suffering of the Armenian people." Yet at a time when our nation and our Congress is prepared to do just that, because of potential harm to the political relationship the U.S. shares with Turkey, the President decides that such a resolution of recognition is "not the right response" (CNN.com).

When a friend of mine told me that his Turkish friends are taught that what happened to the Armenians wasn't genocide, I was astounded and fascinated. I did my research paper for a "History of the Modern Middle East" course on the genocide and I had studied several angles: the official statement of the government of Turkey, which attributed the 800,000 deaths to a cursory displacement that often happens to people in times of world war; the Western European position, most recently and clearly defined by France's passage of legislation demanding that the event be legally recognized as a genocide; and, of course, the Armenian position – thousands of whom are scattered across the Middle East because their ancestors were refugees, and many of whom are honored alongside Holocaust memorials. (The Holocaust museum in Houston is just one example of an instance where the WWI and WWII genocides are memorialized in the same place.)

The Bush administration's newly formed stance on the definition of the event, however, bodes ill for future American foreign policy. The U.S. is already criticized for the treatment of detainees at Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba, and for the prioritizing of trade relations over human rights issues with respect to our economic partner China. This complete reversal and refusal to acknowledge the killing of 800,000 Armenians as genocide or any kind of ethnic cleansing is another significant misstep in a long line of regression for American politics.

Limited hours of Health Services are potentially problematic

Caitlin Kennedy
Staff Writer

Sick students here at Centenary may have a hard time finding treatment after 4:30 p.m. – that's the closing time for our Health Services department Monday through Thursday. On Friday it closes even earlier, at 3:00 p.m.

How does this affect the students here when a sudden flu virus sweeps the campus? There seem to be some mixed views.

When asked about their experiences with Health Services, these three people had different attitudes.

Anna Waltman, freshman, said that she had been sick earlier in the year but didn't have any difficulty seeing the nurse. Madalyn Allen, freshman, had trouble when she suddenly found herself stuck with a sore throat at 6:00 one evening and no nurse to see her.

When asked for his opinion on the issue, Sophomore C.J. Winkle replied, "[Health Services closing early] makes me kind of angry, but at the same time I understand why they do that. We have DPS around all the time to take care of emergencies if we have them.

We have to remember that the nurse spends a lot of time here on campus and probably has a family she has to go take care of every day. It's partially the school's fault for not hiring more nurses to work, but since that's something we can't do right now, we're just going to have to be more understanding."

As inconvenient as it is to have to work around limited hours, it's something we have to accept as just another flaw in campus life. Though she won't be there all day, Nurse Manno will always take care of a sick student when one comes in, and will always make sure there is a doctor for the student to go to.

Don't be discouraged by the small time window. Please go see the nurse for any ailments; it's what she's there for!

Opinion: Student Life Office enforces arbitrary rules on campus

James King
Guest Contributor

Before the funeral services for former U.S. Representative Joe D. Waggonner commenced in Centenary's Brown Chapel Tuesday afternoon, Amanda Russell and I held up a sign in between Magale Library and Mickle that read, "Waggonner purged blacks from the polls, now Centenary is purging our parking lot." We were not blocking the entrance to the chapel or making any noise as we held our banner, yet DPS Officer Zeke Aull asked us to put the sign down. In response to his request, I inquired as to which Centenary policy forbade us from holding this sign on our campus. He failed to cite any policy, but he did say that he was acting on the orders of Dean of Students Lori Bradshaw. My last question to Officer Aull before we complied with his request was "What policy is she citing that says we can't do this?" He gave no answer.

Regardless of how you view the actions taken by Amanda and me that day, the bigger issue is the Student Life Office's wanton disregard for uniformed procedures. The reason why Officer Aull was virtually speechless when asked about a policy forbidding our peaceful and contained protest is because there is no policy against protests. The student handbook is devoid of such a policy. In fact, Dean Bradshaw, on a previous occasion, has indirectly acknowledged this. In response to an e-mail I sent to her in September about a possible Iraq War protest concerning the steps I need to take to plan it in accordance with Centenary policy she wrote, "As far as I am concerned, all you have to do is reserve the space through Facilities Services. As the date nears, it may be helpful to talk with Zeke about other issues." Our protest on Tuesday did not call for a facilities request because we were standing in a common area and did not take up more than 6 feet. Contacting Zeke was not a requirement to protest, but it "may be helpful."

I contacted Dean Bradshaw. I explicitly asked her to cite a policy, but she avoided my question. Her response was, "My understanding of what occurred yesterday was that Zeke asked you to remove the sign. You and Amanda complied, Zeke moved away, and Betsy [Eaves] began a discussion with you." Dean Bradshaw's e-mail continued, "If you are interested in continuing the conversation that you had with Betsy with me, please set up an appointment..." Seeing that my conversation with Chaplain Eaves addressed the actual merits of our protest and not Centenary's policy on freedom of expression and assembly, my feeling is that Dean Bradshaw is in the same boat as Officer Aull— unable to cite a policy.

I am not a disgruntled student that is out to get the Student Life Office. I am a student in a long line of other students who have been on the receiving end of the arbitrary actions emanating from the Student Life Office. If you don't believe me, ask your fellow students. The negative feelings toward the Student Life Office transcend class, race, gender, orientation, and major. Although this is the first time that I have felt personally wronged by the Student Life Office, I have had several friends who have run into similar situations. I sincerely apologize to them and the Centenary community as a whole for waiting until I felt personally wronged to say something.

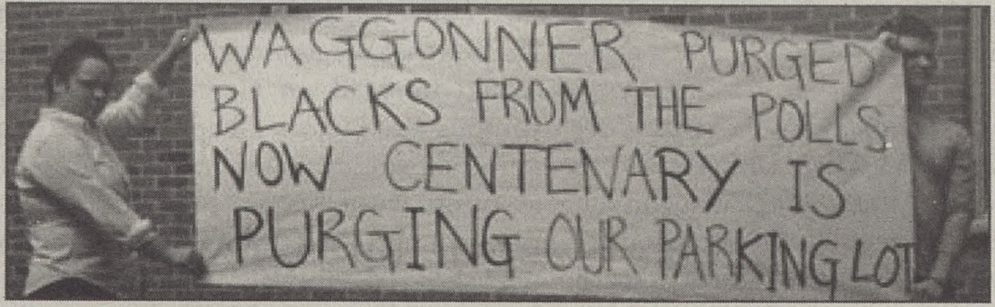


Photo by Emily DeLatin.

Leave every child behind: Bush vetoes child health care legislation

Riley Adams
Staff Writer

President George W. Bush vetoed legislation on October 3rd that would expand health coverage of about 6.6 million poor children to nearly 10 million by 2010.

Bush claimed that he did not want to see America shift to federalized healthcare. "The policies of the government," he said, "ought to be to help people find private insurance, not federal coverage."

He added, "I happen to believe that what you're seeing when you expand eligibility for federal programs is the desire by some in Washington, D.C. to federalize health care. I don't think that's good for the country."

This move has put the President under extensive criticism by politicians, such as Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, who said Bush has "turned his back on America's children."

Or Rep. Rahm Emanuel, a Democrat from Illinois, who said, "Today the president showed the nation his true priorities: $700 billion for a war in Iraq, but no health care for low-income kids. Millions of American children and their families won't forget that they are on the bottom of the President's priority list."

Robert Jindal was conspicuously absent for the vote on the bill on September 25 in the House of Representatives. According to Project Vote Smart, he voted against the legislation on August 1st of this year.

At this point in Bush's presidency, he has to do all but pay an audience to care about his actions.

With Bush at a 33% approval rating in the current "Washington Post/ABC News Poll," his numbers show an interesting fact: it takes more attention and decisiveness to disapprove of the President rather than be indifferent.

Bush is breeding malcontent in this nation by continually strutting across the world stage with his sullen and arrogant attitude, trailed by his saturated right-wing values.

His neo-conservative views completely misrepresent America, and sometimes I think the smartest move Americans can make is to repeat this mantra: "I'm not with stupid."

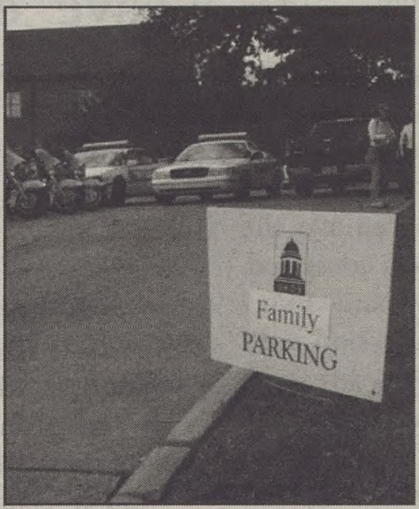
Opinion: Primary research presents an alternate view of Joe D. Waggonner

Amanda Russell
Guest Contributor

On Sunday, October 7, 2007, former United States Representative Joe D. Waggonner, 89, passed away. Waggonner represented Northwestern Louisiana in the hallowed halls of Congress from 1961 to 1979. Waggonner, a native of Plain Dealing, Louisiana, is most remembered for his work as a key leader of Southern Democrats in the House of Representatives and his close, personal relationship with former President Nixon. Waggonner served on the House committee administering the space program and the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee. Caddo Parish credits Waggonner for securing Interstate 49 between Lafayette and Shreveport and for funding Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City and Fork Polk in Leesville.

This former naval Lieutenant Commander who served in WWII and Korea was an active member of the Methodist Church. Waggonner graduated from Louisiana Tech, where he later received an honorary doctorate. Professorships in Political Science and Engineering have been endowed in his name at LA Tech. According to his obituaries in the Shreveport Times, Waggonner treasured his Louisiana friends dearly and worked hard to improve northwest Louisiana. Waggonner distinguished himself by garnishing several awards, including “Mr. Shreveport” in 1976 and the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award in 1978. Waggonner was an honorary alumnus of Centenary College of Louisiana and a Life Member of the Centenary College Board of Trustees.

However, when I first learned that Waggonner’s funeral would be held on Centenary’s campus in Brown Chapel, his name jogged my memory. Before learning about his life from his obituary and various other news releases, I distinctly remember learning about his life from a much different source. In fact, I learned much about his life from the man himself. I read his very own words in the archives at Noel Memorial Library at LSUS. As a history major completing my senior seminar project on the impact of the 1965 Voting Rights on Shreveport, I found myself in need of primary documents. The Willie Rainach Papers, a fascinating collection of primary documents, provided my first look at former Congressman Waggonner. The image of Joe D. Waggonner I encountered in the primary historical documents is not the image Shreveport’s media has splashed across its headlines this past week. In fact, it is not even close.



The lessons of history direct the student to a much different image. In an article in the Shreveport Times, “Waggonner slips into history with dignity,” dated October 10, 2007, Waggonner is called a “patriot,” a man able to “see both sides of the issue,” and a man able to “draw opponents together to bipartisan solutions.” Not only was Waggonner not bipartisan, he was actually the ultimate partisan.

In a 1982 article for the Journal of the North Louisiana Historical Association, David W. Childs writes that Waggonner initially ran for Congress condemning “godless communism and embracing segregation.” Waggonner quickly seized on the strengths and weaknesses of his other colleagues; he was recognized as one of the most effective parliamentarians on Capitol Hill. Waggonner’s political opponents knew that if he opposed a bill, he would find some little-known rule or floor procedure to thwart its passage at any cost. Waggonner rose to become the unofficial leader of the Southern Democrats in the House. During this period in history, the Southern Democrats were dedicated to pushing a conservative, segregationist agenda. Waggonner’s actions lived up to his party’s agenda.

In his congressional campaign material, Waggonner pledged to introduce measures calling for the “abolition of the Civil Rights Commission.” In the Joe D. Waggonner Reports, newsletters printed by his congressional office, Waggonner proudly relates his voting record to his constituents. His vote on creating a Department of Urban Affairs to be headed by a ‘negro’ – NO; his vote to give more federal aid to education – NO (September 1962).

Waggonner also initiated a heated battle over forced busing measures in response to the Supreme Court decision in Alexander v. Holmes County (1969) which called for the elimination of dual school systems (a result of segregation). The Court also decided in Charlotee-Mecklenburg v. Swan (1971) that busing could be used to achieve desegregation in the South. Waggonner opposed busing as a means to overcome racial imbalances (Washington Post, 1972), calling “pure equality pure communism.” In a resolution Waggonner brought to the floor with the Democratic Caucus in May 1972, he claimed that “busing students to overcome racial imbalances is in direct contravention of the laws of the land.” I wonder if Waggonner forgot about the Supreme Court decisions in Alexander and Charlotee-Mecklenburg. If I remember correctly from my Constitutional Law course, Supreme Court decisions are binding and have the force of law, so I’m not exactly sure how he decided busing was a “contravention of the laws of the land.” He obviously felt it was his duty to enact legislation to supersede the Supreme Court decisions. President Nixon also supported Waggonner’s anti-busing efforts by issuing an 8,000-word condemnation of forced integration and busing as well as purging his administration of pro-busing appointees – James Allen (Commissioner of Education) and Robert Finch (Secretary of HEW). Although Waggonner’s specific anti-busing resolution brought in 1972 was not successful, other attempts to introduce anti-busing amendments were. Waggonner was successful in passing the Equal Education Opportunities Act and the education amendments of 1972 which contained impressive anti-busing measures.

continued on next page

Primary research, cont. from page 6

In researching the anti-busing legislation, I did find isolated examples of Waggonner's supposed 'bipartisan' efforts. He did enlist House Republicans in his quest to bring anti-busing measures to floor. I do not find Waggonner's efforts to garner Republican support for segregationist policies 'bipartisan' or "see[ing] both sides of the issue." I think the titles "bipartisan for the sake of partisanship" or "I have a segregationist agenda and I'll do anything to see it achieved" are more appropriate titles.

However, the most disturbing aspects of the recent newspaper reports concerning the life of Joe D. Waggonner are their exclusion of Waggonner's personal racist views and efforts to disenfranchise persons of color in Louisiana. In the late 1950s, then-State Senator Willie Rainach helped found the White Citizens' Councils in Louisiana and Waggonner was an active member of the board of directors. The White Citizens' Councils of America (according to reports from their Annual Leadership Conference in 1963) were dedicated to preserving racial segregation, "the way of life regulating the daily activities of tens of millions of American citizens, black and white, in a well known pattern of familiar and satisfactory conduct." In the late 1950s through the early 1960s, the White Citizens' Councils, particularly branches in North Louisiana, engaged in voter purging with the intention of removing as many African-Americans from the voting rolls as possible. Just in case anyone doubted Waggonner's affiliation with this white supremacist group, we need look no further than to the minutes of the Board of Directors of the Association of Citizens' Councils of Louisiana. Joe D. Waggonner is happily reported in attendance as a member of the state board (1960).

However, the most disturbing evidence of Waggonner's racist views comes in the form of a letter to Willie Rainach dated August 2, 1965. In responding to Rainach's thoughts on a proposed bill by Congressman James D. Martin of Alabama to create a Commission on Human Resettlement, Waggonner wrote "the resettlement of the Negro in Africa is an intriguing idea and one, as you know, that offers all kinds of food for thought and speculation." If that wasn't clear enough, he also wrote to Rainach, "I agree with you this would be the ultimate solution."

> *"Waggonner wrote 'the resettlement of the Negro in Africa is an intriguing idea...'"*

As you can imagine, thoughts of anti-busing, 'ultimate solutions,' and racism filled my mind when I heard of Waggonner's passing. However, I was astonished to see no mention of his segregationist agenda and white supremacist ideas in the articles. The closest mention I could find was his obituary's declaration that he was the "leader of southern conservative Democrats" and "widely acknowledged in the House of Representatives as the unofficial leader of the conservative forces." To a political scientist or historian, the mention of 'southern Democrats' and 'conservative forces' from this era is considered code-word for white supremacy and segregation.

To be fair, I could find nothing in the record indicating Waggonner pulled a "Strom Thurmond," that is, renounced his segregationist and white supremacist actions. He very well may have done so. However, I am slightly appalled that the Shreveport Times did not do its homework and report on the true nature of Waggonner's record in Washington.

I am also equally appalled that after a year's worth of Diversity Climate Assessment, Centenary College has once again proven its lack of commitment to diversity in allowing the celebration of a man who advocated human resettlement to take place on our campus, a campus that is supposedly devoted to achieving a "student body [that] will be significantly diverse, comprised of a wide variety of persons from different cultures, geographical areas, and age groups" (Centenary College of LA Online Handbook). Last time I checked, there were no permanent African-American faculty members and few faculty members of color working on Centenary's campus. Centenary's student body continues to be comprised of white students from middle- to upper-class backgrounds. A small group of vocal students and organizations (like Outreach and MSA) continue to do all they can to push for diversity. Until Centenary takes a stand on diversity, the college may, like Waggonner and according to the predictions of our outside and neutral Diversity Climate Assessment facilitator, slip into history. And I'm not so sure dignity will be a part of the fall.

Send us your secrets!

In honor of the newly released Post Secret book A Lifetime of Secrets the Conglomerate will be printing secrets of Centenary students.

In order to particpate take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box number 786 or slip it under the Conlgomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.

Some tips....

Be brief - the fewer the words the better
Be legible - use big, clear, and bold lettering
Be creative - let the postcard be your canvas

Visit www.postsecret.com for inspiration

FEATURES

Education Module to China fulfills Centenary Plan requirements in an extraordinary way

Kat Michiels
Staff Writer

This May Module, wake up on top of the world.

This May Module, do something forbidden.

This May Module, take a cruise.

You've seen the flyers. Now read the details.

Students who haven't yet fulfilled the May Module component of the Centenary Plan, or who are planning to take advantage of a second or third trip, have a new option this year. It's a trip to China with Drs. Robert Prickett and Meg Webber that is "off the beaten path."

The trip is focused on showing students a "breadth of China" not usually appreciated by tourists.

This particular module, officially entitled "The Xia Dynasty to the 2008 Olympics: Chinese Culture 101 as Multidisciplinary Educational Program Model," will take students through an array of locations within China.

It will do so in what Dr. Prickett refers to as having "all of the earmarks of a once-in-a-lifetime trip," by "hitting the big iconic sites, and then going a little bit further."

When they use phrases like "breadth of China" and "once-in-a-lifetime," they mean it. This particular module will cover a lot of ground during the 15 full days in China, including seven major cities, not counting the numerous other villages and sub-communities they will visit.

Students will begin in Beijing, touring the Forbidden City, the Heavenly Temple, and the Summer Palace – three architecturally amazing structures with an enormous amount of history and culture embedded in their walls – before going on to other parts of China.

Of course, a trip to China isn't really a trip to China unless you visit the Great Wall, so students have the option of taking a hike on the Great Wall. This particular hike is on a part of the Great Wall that tourists normally don't travel, so it will be a more private experience.

Another stop on the trip, which is generating a lot of excitement on campus, will allow the group to literally wake up on top of the world. To get to the top of Yellow Mountain, students may hike or take a cable car, but either way, they will wake up to watch the sunrise on one of the most famous natural landscapes in the world.

Students will also take a cruise on the Li River, stay at a mountain resort, and tour the Lama Temple. They will experience the "Venice of the East," which is located in Suzhou, a city of canals.

A variety of other places grace the destination list this May, including mosques, museums, and markets.

This trip may sound packed with excitement, which it is, but there will also be times to just sit and relax. At the top of the Yellow Mountain, for example, after waking up to watch the sunrise, students may hike, bask in the hot springs, or just hang out at the top of the world.

Additionally, Drs. Webber and Prickett made it a point to include two options at each location where things may get physically strenuous.

For example, students who don't wish to hike the Great Wall will have the option of being driven from one point on the Wall to the final meeting place of the hikers. Either way, the students will experience the rich culture surrounding them.

The trip will also do a wonderful job fulfilling the Centenary Plan.

"One of our main goals was to dispel stereotypes," Dr. Webber said. "I worry when we, as Americans, categorize another group of people as 'other.' Having these personal experiences with Chinese helps us to see the common threads of humanity.

It's also important for students to see that there are no snapshots of places. That would be like someone coming to New York and assuming all Americans were like New Yorkers.

We made it a point to be different by traveling to a variety of cultures and cities within China; we want students to walk away feeling connected to the people of China and more connected to the diversity in our world."

Students appear to be excited about the trip, but concerned about the cost. When asked about the price tag, Dr. Webber quickly pointed out that the cost quoted in module information is highly inclusive.

continued on next page

Pictured: Dr. Robert Prickett in the Forbidden City.

China module, cont. from page 8

"I hope students do their homework in comparing trip costs, because though our stated price is high, there will be few outside costs for a student going on this trip. We're happy to provide the breakdown."

Students who are interested in learning more should attend the Module Fair on October 16, 2007. However, Drs. Prickett and Webber can only take a limited number of students.

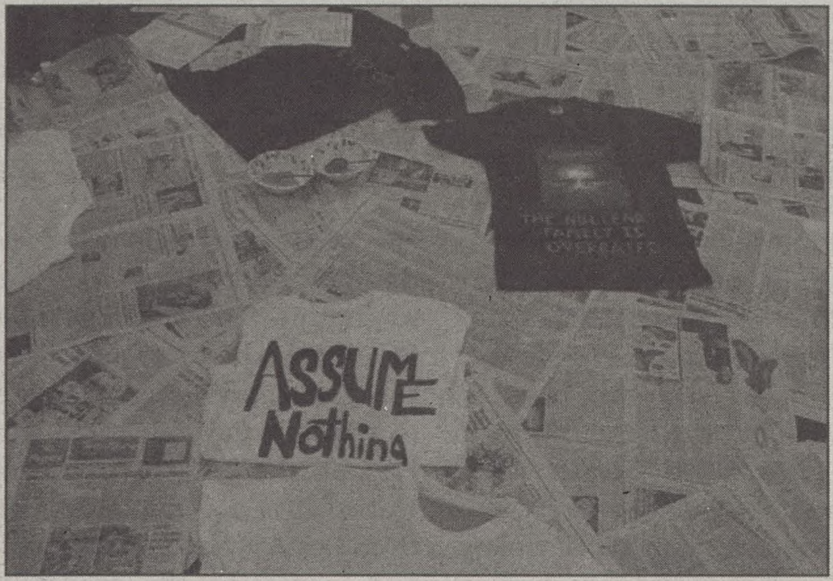
"We have to accept students on a first-come, first-served basis," said Dr. Webber, "and we will not be able to take more than 17 students." This means that anyone interested needs to act quickly. Once the opportunity is gone, it may not come again.

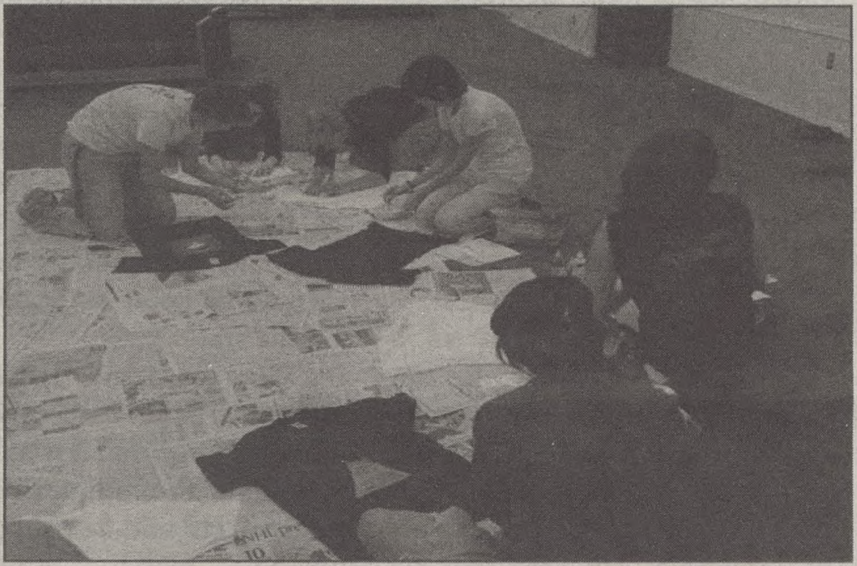
"The trip is so amazing, we would like to offer it every year, but China is so rapidly modernizing that this itinerary may not be possible again," said Dr. Prickett. In fact, with the trip occurring near the start of the 2008 Olympics, students will be seeing China at its best. The Chinese will be putting the finishing touches on their country to show it to the rest of the world the following August.

In fact, the group will experience history as they walk through old neighborhood "hutongs" in Beijing, which are actually being destroyed in preparation for the Olympics.

Drs. Prickett and Webber have been to China before and are excited to be sharing this phenomenal experience with students. Three years ago, as Dr. Prickett stood on the Great Wall, he "felt a connection to thousands of years prior, but then also the sense of what a big world it is and how we are each connected to it. And truly, that's an amazing feeling."

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11TH





Tuesday night in the SUB, Centenay students and members of Outreach made shirts to wear in honor of the day, broadcasting messages as simple as "Je Suis Gay" to "The Nuclear Family is Overrated."
Photos by Mindy McKoin.

Centenary students and staff will spend Fall Break on a mission trip in New Orleans

Michelle Junot
Staff Writer

While many Centenary students are enjoying their fall breaks on vacation, catching up on sleep, or watching "Grey's Anatomy," 12 members of the Centenary community will be working in New Orleans, rebuilding gutted homes.

This year's fall mission trip to New Orleans is Centenary's fifth trip since Hurricane Katrina hit in August 2005. The group will be staying at the Aurora United Methodist Church in New Orleans (Algiers), Louisiana.

Laura Canfield, Mission Coordinator for the Christian Leadership Center, said "New Orleans-area alumni will be hosting the team for dinner each night."

This generous gesture will not only feed the team each night but also allow current students to connect with alumni, building relationships within the Centenary community beyond the boundaries of the physical campus.

The group will primarily be working on homes already gutted and emptied. Their efforts will help New Orleans-area residents who would otherwise be unable to rebuild their homes due to financial or physical limitations.

This year's Spring Mission Trip, held March 14-19, 2008, will be in Mexico. The purpose of this trip, said Canfield, will be primarily medical, with some construction opportunities. There is also a summer trip to Belize planned, though no specific date has been set.

Centenary mission trips are open to all those within and related to the Centenary community. There is a $30.00 non-fundable registration fee to hold each individual's place.

If you would like to register for a trip, help with fundraising, or get more information, go to the Christian Leadership Center homepage on the Centenary website or contact Laura Canfield at 318.869.5280 or lcanfiel@centenary.edu.

Gubernatorial debate at LSUS: what the candidates want for North Louisiana

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

Last Thursday, October 4th, LSUS hosted a forum with the top four gubernatorial candidates: Democrat Walter Boasso, elected to LA Senate in 2003 and CEO of Boasso America Corp., Democrat Foster Campbell, 27 years on LA State Senate, Public Service Commissioner, Independent John Georges, six years on LA Board of Regents, Imperial Trading Company CEO, and Republican Bobby Jindal, elected to Congress in 2004, President of University of Louisiana System.

Cyber Command of Barksdale

Campbell said that as a resident of Bossier City, he can say this is a number one priority for Louisiana. He said we needed to make this project a reality, to make it one of the greatest assets in Louisiana. He said that he would be able to fund this under his proposal to tax foreign oil and gas companies.

Georges said this would be a number one priority in the region. He said he would put a laptop computer on every public school child's desk, and let them be familiar with computers. He said he supports training programs at Southern University to put them in the cyberspace program, and keep them here in Louisiana.

Jindal said cyber command will transform the entire economy. He said we should take money that the legislature approved, expand high-speed optic fiber networks, and support programs to train technical workers. This would be good for the entire state.

Boasso said that he knows how difficult it is to do business in Louisiana, and, having done business in six other states, can compare it to doing business in other areas – he believes we cannot lose that opportunity. As governor, he would make sure we don't lose it to another state.

Higher Degree Programs

Boasso said we need to take a look at all the pieces in the Shreveport Bossier area, adding that we need to create a comprehensive medical facility, as everything surrounds medical programs. .

Campbell said it makes sense to get a Ph.D. program; we are one of the only places in Louisiana without that. He said we need doctorate programs here in northwest Louisiana, and it would be good for Shreveport and the state.

Georges said that his experience on the Louisiana Board of Regents allows him to understand the complexity of the problem. He said he's supported moving higher education institutions to the next level.

Jindal supports putting more accountability into the funding formula for higher education. He said this would allow LSUS and other universities to develop unique areas of excellence that won't be duplicated. This would be done by moving away from funding formula and would encourage universities to focus on graduation rates and research.

Film Industry

Jindal said that the tax incentives have been great, and that he would support the film industry. Referencing Boasso's arguments concerning Jindal's ethics, he said "it's not about calling names, it's who will make the changes." Jindal referenced his 31-point ethics plan. When interrupted by a moderator who requested Jindal address the topic, Jindal replied he wanted to answer Boasso's claims. Boasso said the film industry has been great for Shreveport. He added that when we get these opportunities, we need to continue to provide funding for the industries and make sure we have people trained to work in the movie industry. He said the last challenge he'll work for is a connecting flight from Los Angeles to Shreveport, and increasing the availability and frequency of air flight into Shreveport, as that is important for the film industry as well.

Campbell said the movie industry is thriving here in Shreveport after the move from New Orleans, and he plans to contribute to the growth and development of it as governor.

Georges said the movie industry is a good example of North and South Louisiana working together. He said that we shouldn't stop with the film industry, and referenced Broadway as another good economic venture.

Casino Industry

Boasso said those 9,000 jobs are very important to the area. Boasso said he's concerned about our ability to compete with the other states. He said that, as a businessman, he knows we need to work to keep our casino industry competitive.

Campbell said that he predicted there would be gambling in Texas. He said Texas would have casino gaming in Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio. Campbell remarked that some people thought there wouldn't be horse racing in Texas, but they voted for it, so revenue in Bossier City dropped from $2 million a year to $200,000. He said that the reason that the casino industries go to Texas and other states is because they don't have an income tax. Campbell said that the fastest growing and richest states in America have no income tax, and that he would eliminate the state income tax and corporate tax to get the economy going.

Georges said that he had a license in gaming, and that the Shreveport-Bossier community is better because of the gaming industry. He said that it has brought in dollars and rejuvenated the community. Georges added that he would respect the wishes of any community which did not want a gaming industry. He said that he has the most knowledge of the business of the gaming industry compared to the other candidates. He added that he knows how to deal with the industries and treat them fairly.

Jindal said that he would create a better business environment for all industries. He would get rid of unorthodox taxes, provide better job training, and provide transparent government regulatory process. He said he would put more of the government regulatory process online so they can see what the rules are. He said he would diversify the economy by developing all of our industries, as we should not be dependent on one industry.

Rapid-fire Question: Pardon Edwin Edwards?

Boasso said Edwin Edwards is on his own.

Campbell said Edwin Edwards is 80 years old, and he would let him out to live out the rest of his years.

Georges said he would not pardon Edwin Edwards. Georges also challenged Jindal to give a straight answer on the issue.

Jindal said he would advise the president to listen to his prosecutors and his employees.

Meet James Andrews from Northern Ireland (and yes, he likes Guinness)

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

Conglomerate: Hi, James! Please tell us about yourself.

James: My name is James Andrews. I'm from Belfast, Northern Ireland. My major is Design Communications.

Congo: What do you like the most about living in Northern Ireland?

James: I think the humor is very good.

Congo: You don't like the American sense of humor?

James: Actually, it's similar.

Congo: Can you tell us how the conflict in Northern Ireland has affected you personally? Can you explain it to us from the perspective of a Northern Irishman?

James: Well, I was born in '81, so there were still bombings and killings happening in Northern Ireland at that time. But in high school, things started to get better and, politically, it's recently gotten a lot better.

The two main parties are working together and reaching an agreement. It affects you in the way of the whole social psyche, of what you believe, where you go, who you're friends with.

But this generation doesn't care about that – they don't care about the past. Well, not that they don't about the past, but they don't care about excluding themselves.

Some areas are better than others and still holding on. It's like a territorial war, they're fighting for land. But this generation has learned to forgive.

The past couple of years have started to sort of regrow their cultural roots, like Ulster Scots will be usually connected to Protestant culture, and Gaelic will be Catholic, but that's pretty much a stereotype. The majority of Catholic schools will teach Gaelic and it really just depends. It's starting to become more popular.

Congo: What's your favorite thing about Centenary?

James: Something we don't have back home is that it's more like a community here. There's always something to do. Back home, a lot of people study from home and travel to school and go back home.

Here, it's more interactive, more personal, more of a community.

Congo: Had you ever been to the United States before? James: The first time I was one year old and I was in Disney World. But I don't remember it.

Congo: What are your plans for Fall Break and for Thanksgiving Break?

James: For Fall Break I'm going on the mission trip to New Orleans to help build houses. And for Thanksgiving we're going on a road trip to Arizona! Yesss!

Congo: What are your hobbies?

James: I'm passionate about poetry, words, meanings, colors, everything. I'm passionate about my faith, being Christian, and spiritual stuff. I'm passionate about helping people, learning from people. I also like to design, to rhyme. I love music and lyrics. The list could go on endlessly…

I love movies. Back home, sometimes I will communicate with my brother just through a script. So, our conversation is structured by actual quotes from films and not real life.

Sometimes we'll talk through a Jim Carrey script. It's kind of weird.

Congo: Are you sure you're not related to John Bonner (our movie and "Wildfist" guru)?

James: It could be destiny; maybe we were in a previous life.

Congo: If you could be in a movie with any famous actor or actress, who would it be?

James: Can I split this question? Can it be one male and one female actor?

I think Kate Beckinsale from "Underworld." I would like to be in a movie with her, preferably a love scene. An erotic movie. And for the actor…I'd love to be in a movie with Jack Black!

Congo: What advice would you have for someone who wants to study abroad in Ireland?

James: I think, on the positive note, there are a lot of good places to visit, a lot of landmarks.

Like Giant's Causeway – it's a volcanic rock formed in the hexagon shape with pillars sticking out of the sea. Also, the Mourne Mountains – a granite mountain range in the southeast of Northern Ireland.

And the shipyard in Belfast is where the Titanic was built, so they'll be turning it into a Titanic quarter; it will be a big tourist attraction. Also, my university has recently been renovated, so it's brand new, depending on what you want to study. It's the University of Ulster.

There are actually two universities; the other one is Queens University.

Now, on a party note, partying is completely different. There are no fraternities, stuff like that. But on the bonus side, the legal drinking age is 18.

And the club life is quite good - there's dance, contemporary, alternative rock, indie rock, it varies on the club. A lot of clubs and bars have live music, which is really, really good.

Other highlights are Guinness and George Best – one of the most famous football [soccer] players but a lot of people haven't heard of him.

Congo: What about the classes themselves?

James: The structure of education is different, so the majority of your syllabus would be covered in class. At the end of the year, a lot of people take exams and write papers. You might have one essay a year, but you don't have quizzes. You can have a few assignments, but in general you're expected to study on your own. You just take a final exam and get a degree, so it's not split up like here.

Congo: Anything else you want to add?

James: Yes. Don't listen to the media. The media representation of Ireland is often blown out. It's getting put back together, piece by piece; people are moving on to work together and are starting to value their cultures more.

In certain areas there is still bitterness, but a lot of people learn to respect each other more. So, don't believe everything you hear or see.

Congo: Do you have any last words of wisdom?

James: Yes. Faith clings to the invisible.

Photo by Mindy McKoin.

Peace Corps volunteer will make visit to Centenary campus on October 25th

Sara Carpenter
Staff Writer

Peace Corps Volunteer Erica Gannon will be visiting Centenary on Thursday, October 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the SUB.

Gannon is the Peace Corps Recruiter assigned to the Dallas Regional office, which includes Centenary, and will be providing information about Peace Corps programs and the application process.

Gannon served in Cote d'Ivoire from 2001-2002. Her training was in water and sanitation. She created the small business development program, utilizing her business degree from Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX.

Gannon worked in the rural village of Zorofla. There, she helped provide health and HIV/AIDS education, literacy training, and community development. While in Zorofla, Gannon was evacuated to Ghana because of a coup d'etat.

Unfortunately, because of this, Gannon was not able to finish her Peace Corps Partnership project, which was a three-classroom building for the local primary school.

She continues her work with the Peace Corps by recruiting new volunteers. She has worked at the Dallas Regional Office since 2005 and can be reached at 214-253-5407 or by email at egannon@peacecorps.gov.

Centenary hosts Open House this weekend for prospective students

Michelle Junot
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again - time for Centenary students to put on their happy faces, time to cut the grass and turn the random sprinklers off, and time for faculty and students alike to memorize the campus map.

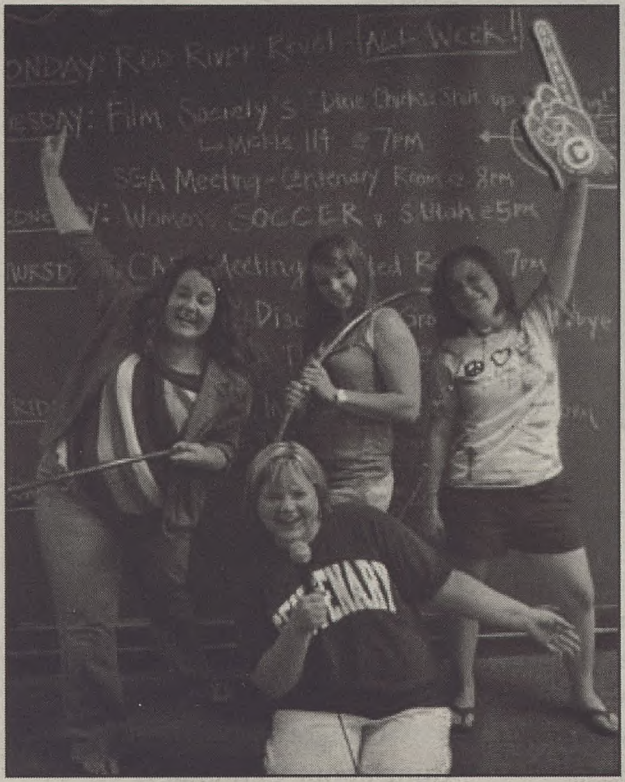
It is time for Centenary's Open House.

On October 13, the first of three scheduled open houses will be held on the Centenary campus. With many informational sessions and several panels made of students, faculty and staff, and alumni, this is a great way for prospective students to really get a taste for the Centenary Experience.

As always, there will be an Academic Programs and Student Organizational Fair in the Fitness Center. This is a great opportunity for visitors to see the many ways they can get involved on campus if they choose to attend, as most organizations are represented.

For more information on the October 13 Open House see the Centenary website.

Residence Life wins more awards



Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Centenary College's reign of dominance in the monthly Residence Life awards continued this month as the award winners for the month of August were released.

For those who do not know, the Centenary chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary writes little pieces called OTMs. These OTMs are usually about a resident assistant, program, advisor, etc. at Centenary.

They are written by members of the NRHH and the OTM team, and are then placed in competition against the other schools in our region and on the national level – should they make it that far.

For the month of August, Centenary had one national winner and nine regional winners in the OTM contest.

The national winner was Executive Board Member, with the nominee being Maggie Mahoney. The OTM was written by Cody Andrews.

The regional winners were:

Lori Bradshaw and Leslie Cothran, Advisors, nomination written by Maggie Mahoney

Centenary Community Day, Community Service Program, nomination written by Laura Pryor

Diversity Discussion, Diversity Program, nomination written by Cara Miccoli

Maggie Mahoney, Executive Board Member, nomination written by Cody Andrews

Jordan Williams, First-Year Student, nomination written by Dione Wrenn

Residence Life Staff, Organization, nomination written by Gabe Silvas

Jennifer Martin, Resident Assistant, nomination written by Allison Cormier

Welcome Week, Social Program, nomination written by Rebekah Metcalf

Amanda Fontenot, Student, nomination written by Amos Sit

As of right now, Centenary College leads the nation for this year in the amount of OTMs won regionally and nationally. The tally at the moment consists of 38 regional winners and 11 national winners since January.

Pictured: members of Residence Life. Photo by Mindy McKoin.

Advice from Allison: rules for dating and dealing with hairy roommates

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

The opinions and ideas expressed by this article do not in any way reflect those of Centenary College, the Conglomerate, or the writer herself. In fact, these ideas probably don't express any intelligently informed opinions anyway.

Dear Allison,

I am having such a difficult time finding decent guys to date. They are either too flakey, undependable, or just jerks. I just want to find a nice guy but I don't know how.

-Single Senior

Dear Single,

Finding guys to date on Centenary's campus is very difficult. Women outnumber males by a long shot and it makes the dating scene that much more difficult.

Though our choices are thin, I have a list of rules that I use to distinguish between the good ones and the ones you need to give fake numbers to:

1. Make sure the guy shares the same beliefs as you: religion, life goals, politics, and football teams.

2. Don't date rock musicians or theatre guys. They need more attention than they can give you.

3. If he cries during a romantic movie, drop him. You might think it's adorable, but it's actually a sign that you may be the man in the relationship.

4. Meet his mother as soon as possible. It's a sure sign of what he is going to be like at 50.

Dear Allison,

My roommate has a LOT of hair and it is really long. When she showers, a lot of it comes out and accumulates around the drain.

Sometimes some of it even sticks to the sides of the shower. It is so disgusting. I've talked to her about it but she forgets to clean it up. What should I do?

-Repulsed Roommate

Dear Repulsed,

You wouldn't believe how many people have asked me about this problem. Since you reminded her to clean it out and that didn't work, you might want to try scooping the hair from the drain and arranging it nicely on her pillow. It will certainly get the message across.

If that tactic is unsuccessful and she continues to leave her hair in the shower, I have a nice, sharp pair of scissors I can loan you.

Do you have a problem and need Allison's help? Send your issues to Campus Box 202 or e-mail Allison at acormier@centenary.edu

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS BULLETIN

Versha Sharma
Publicity Coordinator

The United Nations estimates that 4.2 million people in the Darfur area of Sudan rely on humanitarian aid, including 2.2 million currently in displacement camps. In addition to those displaced within the country, many are fleeing to neighboring countries like Chad – between January and August 2007, UN figures estimate that almost a quarter of a million people fled (some for the third or fourth time).

The Centenary chapter of Amnesty is hosting a Darfur Awareness Night the evening of October 24th to educate students on the situation through a short film and discussion.
The local chapter is also sponsoring a Darfur photo exhibit in the lobby of Magale Library the week of October 22nd. The photos will feature Sudanese people, landscapes, and soldiers in an attempt to connect the Centenary community with this far-removed but important ongoing humanitarian crisis.

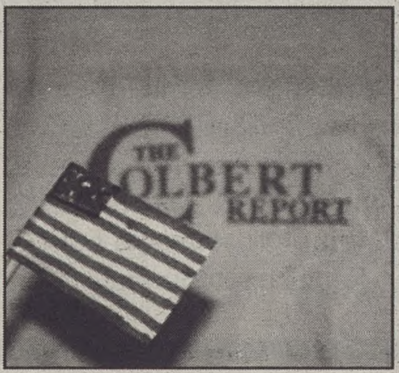
In other news, Amnesty International continues to campaign for the release of Myanmar protesters as well as the worldwide abolition of the death penalty. October 10th was World Day Against the Death Penalty, during which the organization called on UN members to vote for a resolution on a global moratorium on executions. The resolution will be introduced during the current session of the UN General Assembly.

For more information, visit www.amnesty.org. To find out how you can get involved with the Centenary chapter, contact Group Coordinator Megan Ottesen at mottesen@centenary.edu.

A&E

THIS WEEK IN ENTERTAINMENT: STEPHEN COLBERT, POSTSECRET, AND A BEATLES MUSICAL

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief



The Conglomerate has fun with patriotism and crafts. Photo (and crafts) by Emily DeLatin.

BOOKS

It's finally happened. For nearly a year, I've been trying to get Conglomerate staffers to do book reviews – I even said they didn't have to be new on the bookshelves, just to see if that would open some doors. Alas, no one was interested, or those who were simply didn't have the time; homework, extracurriculars, plus reading books just to review in the campus newspaper? Not likely. This week, however, not one but two books were released on Tuesday that will likely command the attention of college students no matter how busy they are. Stephen Colbert's "I Am America (And So Can You!)" and "A Lifetime of Secrets," the new PostSecret collection, are available in bookstores now.

Colbert's book, winner of The Stephen T. Colbert Award for the Literary Excellence (as proclaimed by a gleaming silver seal on the cover), stays true to his Comedy Central late-night character. An extremely conservative TV pundit who is so patriotic that he is America, Colbert (in character) delineates all his deepest thoughts and beliefs in chapters like "Accepting Jesus As My Personal Editor," "When It's Okay To Shower With Men," and "Thanks for the Nukes, Now Go Away." Written and edited by Stephen Colbert himself with help from his show's writers and producers, "I Am America (And So Can You!)" promises to be as terribly narcissistic and politically witty as "The Colbert Report." On sale for $18.99 at Barnes & Noble on Youree Drive.

On a similarly entertaining note, but also containing messages of deep gravity, PostSecret founder Frank Warren has released a new compilation of post-secrets in "A Lifetime of Secrets." The inside jacket labels the post-secrets inside as "the most profound and stunning to date." Warren has already released three PostSecret books, "PostSecret," "My Secret," and "The Secret Lives of Men and Women." In this one, the postcards all center around personal hurdles, concerning relationships, jobs, mental and physical illnesses, and the everyday hopes and fears that have made PostSecret a phenomenon to which everyone can relate. Available for $27.95 at local bookstores.

MOVIES

This is a shameless excuse to notify everyone that "Across the Universe," a Julie Taymor film set to 30 Beatles songs sung by the cast, is finally opening in Shreveport this weekend. After weeks of locals lamenting the state of available films in Shreveport and many a Facebook status complaining about it, the film, starring Evan Rachel Wood and Jim Sturgess, premieres today in Tinseltown. "Across the Universe," which takes its name from a classic Beatles song, follows a British dock worker named Jude (Sturgess) who travels to America in the 1960s in hope of finding his father. Along the way, he falls in love with Lucy (Wood), and the arc of their relationship is set against the tumultuous background of the Vietnam War, anti-war and peace protests, and the civil rights movement. Joe Cocker, Bono, and Eddie Izzard all have memorable cameo roles. Please go see this movie so local movie theater managers realize films like this can do well in our area – and hopefully, in the future, won't make us wait a month after its national release to see it!

Also opening this week: "Elizabeth: The Golden Age," with Cate Blanchett and Clive Owen, and "Michael Clayton," with George Clooney and Tilda Swinton.

Do you love movies?

If so, the Centenary Film society would like to invite
you to join us for free movies
on Tuesday and Thursday nights.
Movies start at 7pm
and are screened in Carlile auditorium.

On October 23rd and 25th we are showing

The Page Turner

The young daughter of a butcher shows great musical talent behind the piano. Her parents decide that she should attend music conservatory. First, she must pass the entrance exam. She is put off by the president of the jury's cruel attitude and fails. Deeply wounded, she spends the next ten years working to become the page turner of the former jury president, waiting patiently to strike revenge.

> "Dercourt, a very fine filmmaker, is a musician himself, a music teacher and one-time solo viola player with the French Symphony Orchestra. And he directs, with a musician's precision and an insider's sly wit, the world of classical music performance."
> — Michael Wilmington, Chicago Tribune

Kevin Rahm of Bossier City set for role in "Desperate Housewives"

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

Shreveport, you did it again.

You brought yet a little more spotlight into our lives and made us a little more proud.

Thus, let it be known that one of Shreveport's (or, to be more precise, Bossier City's) very own, Kevin Rahm, will be a recurring character on this season of "Desperate Housewives"!

Rahm is scheduled to play a new gay neighbor on Wisteria Lane on the fourth season of the popular TV show. However, as of the printing of this issue, he has yet to make his screen debut.

Born in 1971 in Mineral Wells, Texas, Rahm was raised in Bossier City. As a Mormon missionary, he served in France and Switzerland, as well as the Indo-Oceanic islands of Mauritius and Reunion (www.wikipedia.org).

Upon his return to the United States, he first majored in pre-law at Brigham Young University, but eventually switched to drama. In 1996, he dropped out and decided to try his luck in Hollywood.

Interestingly, according to www.imdb.com, Rahm was a cheerleader for Loyola College Prep. in Shreveport.

Since the start of his acting career, Rahm has played numerous characters, mostly on TV shows. He is perhaps best recognized as Kyle McCarty on "Judging Amy," whom he played for about three years.

He also appeared for a long while on the NBC sitcom "Jesse," and landed one- to three-episode roles on such popular TV dramas and comedies as "CSI," "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine," "Rescue 77," "Friends" and "Joan of Arcadia."

Rahm, who recently held a scene-study workshop for film and acting in Shreveport (louisianamovies.blogspot.com), will be moving onto Wisteria Lane as Lee, along with his gay partner, Bob (played by Tuc Watkins).

Eva Longoria, who plays Gabrielle Solis on the show, was quoted by MSNBC's website to have said that both Rahm and Watkins "are funny, oh god they're funny." She was sad that the new characters didn't have as much interaction with her character as they do with Terri Hatcher's (Susan Mayer).

Longoria would love to have more onscreen time with them, as she really likes the new additions to Wisteria Lane. She believes that "Gabrielle should be friends with the gays."

You can see for yourself if Kevin Rahm lives up to his reputation by tuning in to ABC every Sunday at 9/8c.

Beyonce Knowles proves her worth as the genre crossover diva with a Spanish EP

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Beyoncé's smash album "B'Day" sparked a deluxe edition, video anthology, and world tour. Just when some wondered what could possibly come next, "Irreemplazable" was released.

On disc two of the deluxe edition of "B'Day," all of the songs were in Spanish. Seeing the outpour of acceptance and support among the public, Beyoncé released "Irreemplazable," a Spanish EP, and, as a Wal-Mart exclusive, an accompanying DVD chronicling her rise to crossover stardom.

Beyoncé's crossover success is seen widely. She graced the cover of "People en Español," her song "Amor Gitano" with Alejandro Fernández is the theme song for the telenovela "Zorro: La Espada y La Rosa," and "Beautiful Liar," her collaboration with Latin sensation Shakira, earned them a Latin Grammy nomination.

When asked why she chose to do an album in Spanish, Beyoncé responded that she did it because since she grew up in Texas, she has respect for and relates to the culture.

"Irreemplazable" is an EP containing four Spanish songs and four remixes. "Oye," a Spanish rendition of the mega hit "Listen," has as much impact as it had when Beyoncé performed it in the movie "Dreamgirls." The remix to "Get Me Bodied," produced by Timbaland and featuring Voltio, is a great song.

The DVD contains a remix video. The DVD also shows Beyoncé interacting with Shakira, performing "Irreemplazable" on The Early Show, and working with her phonetic coach Rudy Perez. Perez, who rewrote the songs in Spanish, told Beyoncé that if she wasn't the great singer that she is, this album would not be possible.

Beyoncé's crossover came at a great time in her career. She is at the top of the music world, her fashion lines, House of Deréon and Deréon, are sold around the world, and her endorsement deals -American Express, Emporio Armani, and L'Oreal, to name a few - are coming in regularly. "Irreemplazable" is a wonderful EP that shows Beyoncé's growth as an artist.

Source: Beyoncé en Español: La Evolución Latina de Beyoncé (Beyoncé's Latin Evolution) DVD

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK:

www.georgesgonewild.com

Paid for by the Republican Party, this site proves an amusing combination spoof of Independent candidate for governor John Georges and the infamous Girls Gone Wild series.

CD review: The New Pornographer's "Challenger" is near indie perfection

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

There has only been one album dominating my car's sound system for the past three weeks. The New Pornographer's latest gem, "Challengers," is by far one of the best independent albums released in 2007.

The all-star Canadian band, comprised of indie heartthrobs A.C. Newman and Neko Case, has gone back to its infectious indie pop sound with this fourth album.

Case, though receding with a more low-key performance (possibly due to her successful solo career?), shines on two of the album's more noteworthy tracks, "Challengers" and "Go Places." Other remarkably amazing toe-tapping tracks from the album are "All the Old Showstoppers," "My Rights Versus Yours," and "Mutiny, I Promise You."

Has one of the indie world's most loveable bands grown up and matured a bit? Sure. But is that such a bad thing? Not with this album. Honestly, this album is as close as one can get to indie perfection.

VOTE!

The statewide election will be held on

October 20th.

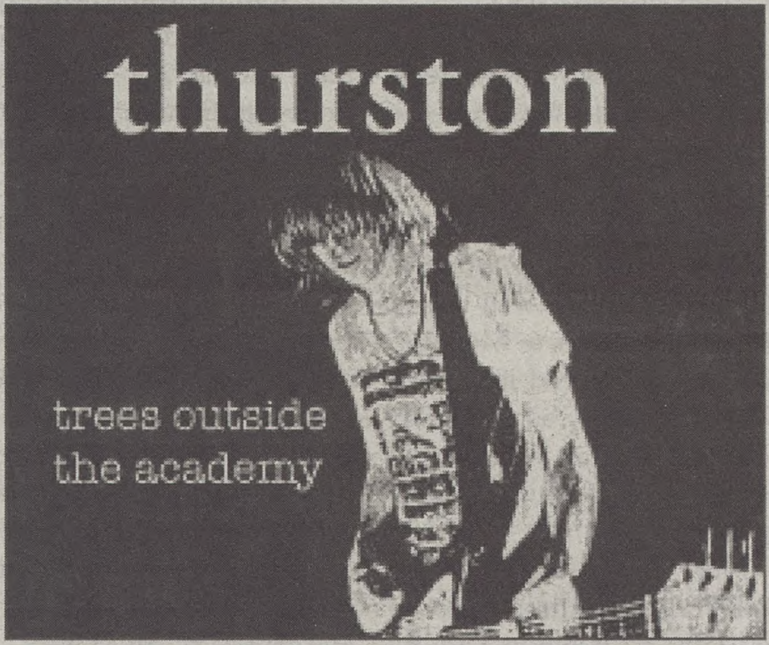
Voters will be selecting a new governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and secretary of state, among other local and state officers.

To see a sample ballot and/or find your polling precinct, visit the Louisiana Secretary of State's website at www.sos.louisiana.gov.

CD review: Thurston Moore's folk-based music is personal, pleasing, and entertaining

Tyler Davis
Staff Writer

With a career spanning three decades and several genres, Thurston Moore, co-founder of the legendary post-punk noise band Sonic Youth, recently released his latest solo publishing. "Trees Outside the Academy" is a lyrically poetic and sonically acoustic frolic through the acid-washed audio mind of Thurston Moore.



The album is predominantly a folk-based acoustic album, yet some tracks exhibit signatures of Sonic Youth-esque noise intros, such as on the track "American Coffin." Other tracks, like "Wonderful Witches" and "Off Work," are more electric guitar-based rock tunes that do not necessarily allude to Sonic Youth's noise sound, but a more reserved, anti-melody style of songwriting.

From the album art to the songs themselves, "Trees" seems to act as a self-portrait for Moore. The CD case and liner notes are littered with personal home photos of the artist as well as copies of letters to family members and other bits of art that seem introspective.

Songs carry an ever-hazy vision of private thoughts from the mind of Thurston, and (as always) cryptic poetry abounds throughout the lyrics, especially on track 5, "Fri/End," which is a happy-go-lucky tune written on acoustic guitar and complimented by stringed accompaniment. "Fri/End" is such a delightful, romping song, yet in an attempt to explain what the song is actually about one must pretend to understand Moore's descriptions of emotion through descriptions of visual color patterns. Most of Moore's lyrics are so acute and strange that even if one feels lost in the poetry of the moment one does not even care.

This is a great album for fans of Thurston Moore or even pure Sonic Youth fans. None of the tracks on this album fail to please or entertain.

Danh's Garden offers alternative dining options and great service

Danh's Garden
ASIAN NOODLE HOUSE
Authentic Vietnamese, Thai and Chinese Cuisine

Kat Michiels
Staff Writer

I'm a go-to-a-restaurant-and-order-a-hunk-of-meat-and-baked-potato kind of girl. An appetizer, complimentary bread, and some form of steak and shrimp, and my day is perfect. But I'm also not the kind of girl to turn down an opportunity to try a perfectly good meal, so, upon the request of everyone's favorite editor-in-chief, I made the short drive to Danh's Garden.

Located on the corner (basically) of King's Highway and Youree Drive, Danh's Garden offers Vietnamese, Thai, and Chinese Cuisine, and has apparently just reopened. Severely reserved as I was, I got a couple of friends (who prefer to be known as Ricardo and Lucy for the purposes of this article) to go with me for a nice lunch. With Ricardo and Lucy by my side, I was pleasantly surprised with my dining experience.

Ricardo and Lucy had been to Danh's Garden before, so according to them, the place is newly redecorated and expanded. The walls also include pictures of authentic food, while the tables are set with matching chopsticks and soup spoons.

The menu includes a variety of Asian food. For convenience, each dish is named in English, the native language of the food (which I obviously couldn't read), and a handy letter/number system for the shy diner who is unwilling to take a stab at naming a dish. My party, for example, ordered the H4 and the T6 (soup and a Thai dish, respectively).

Danh's Garden also takes care of you while you wait. You can learn to use chopsticks (if someone at your table already knows how and is willing to show you), watch Fox News on the flat-screened television near the back of the restaurant, or contemplate the meaning of the large framed poster of a contented-looking golden retriever right above the register.

The food was delivered rather quickly; Ricardo dug enthusiastically into his unbelievably large soup and Lucy apprehensively into her Thai dish with noodles and tofu. I poured a little soy sauce over my portion of shrimp fried rice and went to work as well.

The service was truly excellent. I refused a refill on my Dr. Pepper about six times. The waitress brought forks for those of us not fully trained in chopstick usage. Lucy and Ricardo reported that their dishes were excellently prepared. My shrimp fried rice had small shrimp, but about 68 of them. For the portions that we received, the food was fairly priced.

In fact, the only bad things I can say about Danh's Garden come over possibly uncontrollable variables. They have a bad location, and for their size restaurant, do not have nearly enough parking. In fact, the parking lot is shared with the businesses that surround it.

While there is apparently the option to place an order to-go, there is no to-go menu, which means that unless you know exactly what you want and would like to call ahead, you will need to go in and view a menu prior to ordering and consequently waiting for the food.

Also, the servers do not bring the check to you. As a first-time patron, I became confused when Ricardo randomly rose and went to the back of the restaurant. I suppose you could request a check, but it would be more professional (and match the quality of the other areas of the dining experience) for them to bring it to you.

Even so, those things together do not add up to warrant a refusal to go to the restaurant and sample the food. There are about four other pages of menu to try out, and with excellent service, prices, and cuisine (and proximity to Centenary), there are no excuses not to try it.

Critical though I usually am of restaurants, I find it hard to criticize Danh's Garden. The restaurant serves authentic Asian food at reasonable prices with a fair wait time and a calming ambience. I just need someone to tell me why the hell only one golden retriever is adorning the wall.

Photo by Emily DeLatin.

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Movie review: "The Kingdom" avoids preaching, provides intense action thrills

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Any movie that is made in or about the Middle East is going to be a tough sell to any audience. There is the trap that it will be overly political, preachy, and just plain boring or impossible to understand. Movies with a political agenda usually are a major pet peeve of mine. So you can imagine my trepidation as I sat down in the theater to watch "The Kingdom," which is the latest movie to take place in the Middle East.

The movie takes place in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. There is a series of bombs that kills over 100 American citizens living in the country. Naturally, the United States government is just a little pissed, and despite having some major repercussions, a small team of FBI investigators is sent to find the men responsible for the bombings.

The team, which consists of Jamie Foxx, Jennifer Garner, Chris Cooper, and Jason Bateman, is met by a local Saudi police investigator (Ashraf Barhom) whose primary objective is to make sure that the Americans stay out of the Saudi investigation into the bombing. However, he wants to catch the terrorist, so he ends up helping the Americans. What follows is basically CSI: Saudi Arabia with the team investigating the bombing.

This movie was definitely not what I was expecting. I expected a preachy, self-righteous film and what I got was an intense action-thriller. This helped my enjoyment of the film tremendously.

The first thing I noticed about the film was the opening credits, which are some of the best that I have ever seen in any movie. They set the stage perfectly by telling the history of relations between Saudi Arabia, the United States, and terrorist organizations like Al-Qaeda. They are very well done and set the tone of the movie perfectly.

The acting was very well done as well. Each person gave a very good performance. Not award-worthy (save for one), but still very believable and convincing performances. However, the standout (and possibly award-worthy performance) was that of Barhom's Saudi investigator Al-Ghazi. He made the character a very interesting and conflicted man who just wanted to do what was right, regardless of the consequences. It is impossible to not feel any emotion toward the character of Al-Ghazi in the movie.

However, there are times when it feels like the Americans are the only competent cops in the movie. The movie is very one-sided towards the Americans, which will cause an issue with lots of people. However, the movie is entertaining regardless.

Another thing that is a little jarring is the amount of humor in the movie. There are some really funny moments that do not quite fit in the overall tone of the picture. Lines like Jamie Foxx's line about bin Laden and pretty much everything that comes out of Bateman's mouth are funny or meant to be funny and it kind of kills some of the tension the movie builds.

Then there is the final action scene at the end of the movie. It is very intense and suspenseful and violent. The FBI agents are a little too good at shooting and killing these guys, but other than that the scene is done very well.

The last lines of the movie are haunting and provide more of a profound message than the entire running time of "Syriana."

Overall, the movie is entertaining and a welcome diversion from the constant stream of political movies with an agenda. This one is only meant to be an action movie and not much else. With that in mind, I give it my recommendation, because you can do a whole lot worse than this movie. Solid entertainment.

"Knocked Up" DVD provides several hilarious deleted and extended scenes

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

"Knocked Up" is a film starring Katherine Heigl from ABC's "Grey's Anatomy" and Seth Rogen from "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" as a mismatched couple who accidentally, with the help of a little alcohol, hook up and eventually find out they are having a baby. Through many mishaps, arguments, and raging hormones, the couple finds love in an odd place-each other.

Recently in theatres this summer, "Knocked Up" grossed about $30 million in its opening weekend in the U.S. With the release of the DVD, as of September 23, the gross was about $150 million according to the IMDB website.

The DVD holds in store several deleted scenes and extended ones. Not only do you get to quote your favorite lines from the film, but you can watch things the producers took out of the original. There's even a line-o-rama, where you can recite the most outrageous and hilarious lines from the movie.

One extended scene included in the bonus features is a scene with Jonah (played by Jonah Hill from Superbad) watching Brokeback Mountain. I don't want to give away much, but let's just say Jonah expresses his objection to film producers not putting enough male-on-male intimacy scenes in movies.

Promising you tons of laughs and loads of fun, "Knocked Up" awaits your purchase or leasing of its intoxicating hilarity. If you haven't seen the movie yet, it definitely makes you want to think twice about drinking too much alcohol and also putting on, maybe, a third condom.

Editor's note: The Conglomerate does not endorse double- or triple-bagging.

"The Kingdom" movie times
Friday-Saturday
(parentheses indicate matinees)

Tinseltown
(1:40), (2:05), (4:15), (4:55), 6:55, 7:40, 9:35, 10:20

Boardwalk
(11:45), (12:50), (2:15), (4:20), (4:50), 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:10

Counter-movie review: "The Kingdom" is a travesty of modern film

John Wadsworth
Guest Contributor

"The Kingdom" is the first in what is sure to be a long line of movies that try to generate Oscar buzz by tapping into the anti-war sentiments of Hollywood. Most of these movies, like "The Kingdom," will be terrible.

Let's start with the good - what little there was of it. The opening credits displaying the history of Saudi Arabia were informative and compelling. They set the stage for the movie nicely. If only the movie had lived up to the credits.

The only other good thing about the movie would have to be Chris Cooper. Without a doubt he was the best actor in the film. He gave an amazing comedic performance. Sadly, Jason Bateman, the actor who was intended to have the comedic performance, fell flat. His corny one-liners had me wishing that the terrorists would shoot him.

The rest of the actors also gave bad performances. Jennifer Garner's character had no role and was only there to fill the required female presence. Jamie Foxx turned in a hammed performance as the lead FBI agent. Ashraf Barhom acted more like an American cowboy than a Saudi military officer. Jeremy Piven showed his lack of acting range by playing the same character he plays on "Entourage." His performance as a State Department official was unbelievable. However, he did point out how any idiot can get an important job these days through his terrible performance.

The flaws in the movie are too numerous to mention here, so I will just cover some of the major ones. The plotline with Ali Suliman went nowhere. The movie seemed to be leading up to test his loyalty, but it disappeared halfway through the movie and was never mentioned again. The scene where Foxx and the Barhom went to the informant was convoluted. It started with the guy speaking Arabic and having it translated, and then he magically spoke English for one question.

I'm also pretty sure that if Jamie Foxx talked to any member of the Saudi Royalty the way he did in the movie he would have been executed on the spot. Furthermore, the way in which he blackmailed the Saudis into letting his team into the country would have led to his firing and subsequent imprisonment. Finally, there was a plotline involving the Attorney General trying to get them fired that disappeared halfway through the movie.

The bottom line is that if you are interested in seeing a movie that is blatantly anti-war, then "The Kingdom" is not that movie. There will be others in the months to come that will possibly do it better. But, then again, they'll probably be worse. If you're dead set on seeing "The Kingdom," then wait until it comes out on DVD and ask to borrow it from one of your friends that might have it. This is not a movie that you should waste any money on.

Note: the above review does not reflect the opinion of the author.

Cline Residence Hall Council sponsors a Block Party this Saturday

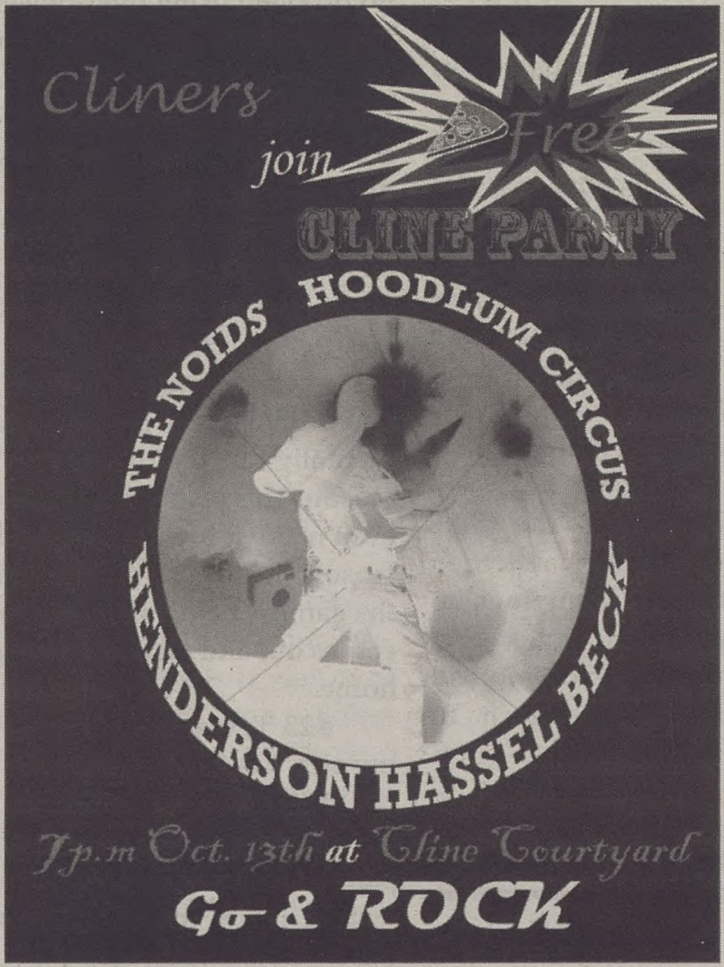
Tuan Tran
Staff Writer

Cline has a very active Residence Hall Council this year. They have a lot of plans for the Residence Hall, and the Cline Block Party this weekend is just the beginning of their series of activities.

"Students in Cline are very active. Everybody loves parties, and Cliners love them even more!" said one member of the Hall Council.

There are always parties around Cline every weekend. Some are big, some are small. Some are good, some are really bad.

The purpose of this party is preventing the "bad party" from happening. A lot of research shows that the more activities students join, the less crime and illegal activities occur on campus.



"We made this party so students have something to do on the weekend, and so they don't get involved in illegal activities," a Cline publicity representative added.

The Cline Block Party will be in the Cline Courtyard. It's for Cline residents, but everybody is invited. There are three rock bands set to perform: The Noids, Henderson Hasselbeck, and Hoodlum Circus, all of which are old Centenary bands.

They're coming back to Centenary to bring a wonderful rock night to us. The party starts at 7 p.m. and there will be free pizza for everybody.

"Come and join us - it's a hell of a lot of fun," said Cline's Vice President.

So, if you don't have any plans this Saturday night, just remember that the Cline Block Party is waiting for you.

SPORTS

LSU football dominates all competition

Todd Johnson
A&E Editor

The party in Baton Rouge must have been astounding on Saturday night. The LSU Tigers won against perennial rival and #7-ranked Florida and news arrived that the University of Southern California, the other top-ranked team in the nation, was beaten by the unranked Stanford Cardinals at home. For Tiger fans, it could not get much better.

This season has been this way for the unbeaten Tigers. They have been making a run that is unprecedented in LSU history and the odds are favorable that they will be playing for the national title in January.

First off, they routed Mississippi State 45-0 in the first game of the season. Then they hammered then-#9-ranked Virginia Tech 48-7. The odd thing about this game was that Virginia Tech had one of the top-ranked defenses in the country and LSU pretty much had open reign on the field throughout the game. The next game consisted of yet another blowout in the defeat of Middle Tennessee 44-0, followed by LSU beating then-#12-ranked South Carolina 28-16. The next game had the Tigers coming out sluggish but eventually finding their rhythm as they beat Tulane 34-9, mostly in the second half.

Then there was the game against Florida (who suffered a loss against Auburn in Gainesville, Florida, the week before), which had the Tigers trailing against the Gators for most of the game until they finally managed to obtain the lead late in the fourth quarter. The final score was 28-24. However, this season is not yet over. The Tigers still have several tough games approaching, as they travel to play #18 Kentucky in Lexington. This is followed by a home match against rival Auburn on October 20th and another rivalry game against Alabama (where former LSU coach Nick Saban now coaches) on the road.

The season will round out with a game against Louisiana Tech at Tiger Stadium (November 10th), Ole Miss in Oxford, Mississippi (November 17th), and the end of conference play as they play Arkansas at home on November 23rd.

Should everything play out like it has been? LSU will be the favorite in the SEC Championship game, and then in the National Championship should they win that game.

The mighty LSU football fans definitely have much to celebrate this season.

Jarboe's Jabber: Pick 'em or weep

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

I'm going to do it. Yes - I'm going to do my best at predicting this weekend's winnings of sports. You may disagree with many of the picks I'm planning on choosing, but you'll quit all that nonsense once you see the results. I'm a torch, baby, a torch...and I'm about to set on fire!

#12 Virginia Tech at Duke ---- my pick ---- Virginia Tech

With an explosive performance against Clemson last week, the Hokies will have no problem using their powerful defense to put the hurt on a struggling Duke Football team. More importantly, can someone still tell me why the ACC is so disgusting? Please?

Purdue at Michigan ---- my pick ---- Purdue

I still cannot get over that loss to Appalachian State in the first week of play. Is that wrong of me? Michigan is physically and mentally out for the rest of the season. This team will be lucky to even make it to a bowl game this season. It doesn't matter where the game is being played. Purdue comes out and takes Michigan at home.

#23 Texas at Iowa State ---- my pick ---- Texas

What is up with the Longhorns this season? With a painful loss to Oklahoma, Texas will be ready to take out some unreleased tension on a 1-5 Iowa State football squad.

#1 LSU at #17 Kentucky ----my pick ---- LSU

The bayou bangles had a bit of a scare with a chomping gator team that almost threw a huge loop into the BCS. LSU is hot, and a young Kentucky team (though having tons of talent) will fall victim to the LSU defense at home. LSU coasts until they meet Auburn in a week.

Texas A&M at Texas Tech ---- my pick ---- Texas A&M

The Aggies of Texas A&M have not been able to defeat Tech in Lubbock since 1993. The tides change as the Aggies come in and stun the Red Raiders, big.

#22 Auburn at Arkansas ---- my pick ---- Auburn

I bear no sympathy for all the "Pig Sooey" fans that roam the campus throughout the football season. Auburn's big win over Florida two weeks ago proves they're at the top of the charts in the SEC. Arkansas' mistakes in the past few weeks will continue to flare up as they play Auburn. The Tigers eat bacon in Fayetteville on Saturday.

UPSET OF THE WEEK

#11 Missouri at #9 Oklahoma ---- my pick ---- Missouri

Missouri's hot. There is no question to that. Even in Norman, the Tigers' quarterback Chase Daniels has the better precision over Bradford (I know all Southlake Carroll haters are hating me even more now). Missouri wins a close one, by a field goal, over the Boomer Sooners.

Athlete of the Week: Swimmer looks forward to time on the road

Ryan Thacker
Staff Writer

Full Name: Wladimir Montoya
Nickname: Wladi
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Spanish
Hometown: Austin, TX
Sport: Swimming
Position(s): Mid Distance Free, Fly

Why did you choose to come to Centenary? I had known the coaches for a couple of years before I came here. Plus the guys were awesome when I came for my visit.

How long have you been swimming? I've been swimming for 10 amazing years and plan to continue for another six or seven.

What has been your greatest accomplishment here at Centenary? Being able to meet such amazing people, and learning how to work and push each other anytime we're having a bad practice or a bad meet.

What do you look forward to the most this season? Traveling with the team and surprising a couple of teams out there.

How does it feel to be a part of such a large team? Ever since I was young and lived in Venezuela, one of my biggest dreams was to go to college in the U.S., train, go to meets, and live with my team. Coming here and finding that I have 20 other guys to do so with was a dream come true.

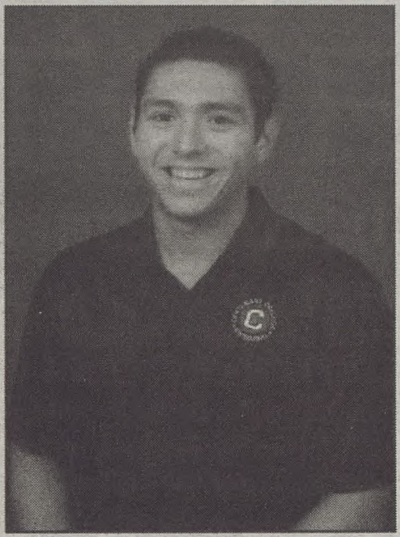


photo courtesy of GoCentenary.com

Centenary Cross Country Team looking strong at mid season

Jessica Brown
Staff Writer

Both the Centenary Men's and Women's Cross Country teams have had a strong season so far. The women won all four dual meets at the Louisiana Mook 4 meet, they won two of their four dual meets at the Louisiana at Monroe invitational, and they finished third at the Northwestern State Invitational. Freshmen Natalie Holcomb and Ashley Fallin, as well as seniors Lori Von Pingel and Laura Way, have consistently had stand-out performances. The Ladies have a home meet on Monday, October 8th. The Gents have also had an outstanding year. Juniors Michael Haydel and Adam Walton, as well as sophomore Adam Nerio, have had excellent showings at all of their races so far this year. The Gents won two dual meets at the LA Tech Mook 4, won another two of their dual meets at the Louisiana at Monroe invitational, and took fourth place at the Northwestern State invitational. They too will have a home meet this Monday. Other upcoming events for Cross Country include the Chili Pepper Initational in Arkansas, where they will compete against hundreds of schools, including big names like Texas Tech and the University of Texas. Their conference will be held October 27th at Western Illinois University.

The Conglomerate presents the life of a student athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

It's that time of year when sports fans find themselves combating one another on which team will win it all or stay ranked. As a college athlete, I find myself doing the exact same thing. I rush home from practice or games on a Saturday afternoon just to find myself turning on the television to the University of Texas football games (and I know for a fact you LSU fans do the same). It is just that time - that time when college students cheer on their favorite teams, all in hopes of winning a National Championship.

Not only is it college football season, but it is the Major League Baseball playoffs season. To me, watching a Red Sox game is the highlight of my day this time of the year. I know some of you, the ones in navy and white - you Yankees fans - do the same.

photo courtesy of GoCentenary.com

Life as a college student, especially at Centenary, where football doesn't exist, sporting the purple and gold, burnt orange and white is what makes this atmosphere and environment we call life so entertaining.

Last Saturday, our team sat under the tent at our softball complex in the hot sun. The topic of conversation for several hours was college football. Whether we know someone on the team or whether they just prove to be a hometown favorite, conversation at sporting events never fall shy of interesting.

As for this week, our team proved to be dominant on the field once again. We battled BPCC, Arkansas Tech for the first time, and Louisiana Tech - whom I know a lot of you hold dear to your hearts. Well, we beat all three of them. It was nice to walk away on our home field with a win against our top in-state rival, Louisiana Tech. Our fall season is coming to an end now, with individuals soon approaching and midterms about to hit us hard.

Turn on your televisions and cheer on your favorite college football team (okay, NFL if you indeed insist) and the MLB team you support. You can't go through this time of year and not find yourself watching sports. It is the ultimate entertainment.

Good luck to each Centenary team - women's soccer, men's soccer, volleyball, and cross country. Represent the Summit League well.

"I come to play everyday."
–David Ortiz, Boston Red Sox

HOROSCOPES

INSPIRED BY MICHAEL JACKSON

Aries (3/21- 4/19) "Be careful of what you do 'cause the lie becomes the truth"

Taurus (4/20- 5/20) "You wanna stay alive, better do what you can"

Gemini (5/21- 6/21) "They're out to get you, there's demons closing in on every side"

Cancer (6/22- 7/22) "We can change the world, tomorrow this could be a better place. If you don't like what I'm sayin' then won't you slap my face . . ."

Leo (7/23- 8/22) "It's time that I realize that there are some with no home, not a nickel to loan"

Virgo (8/23- 9/22) "Don't point your finger"

Libra (9/23- 10/22) "A lot of people misunderstand me. That's because they don't know me at all"

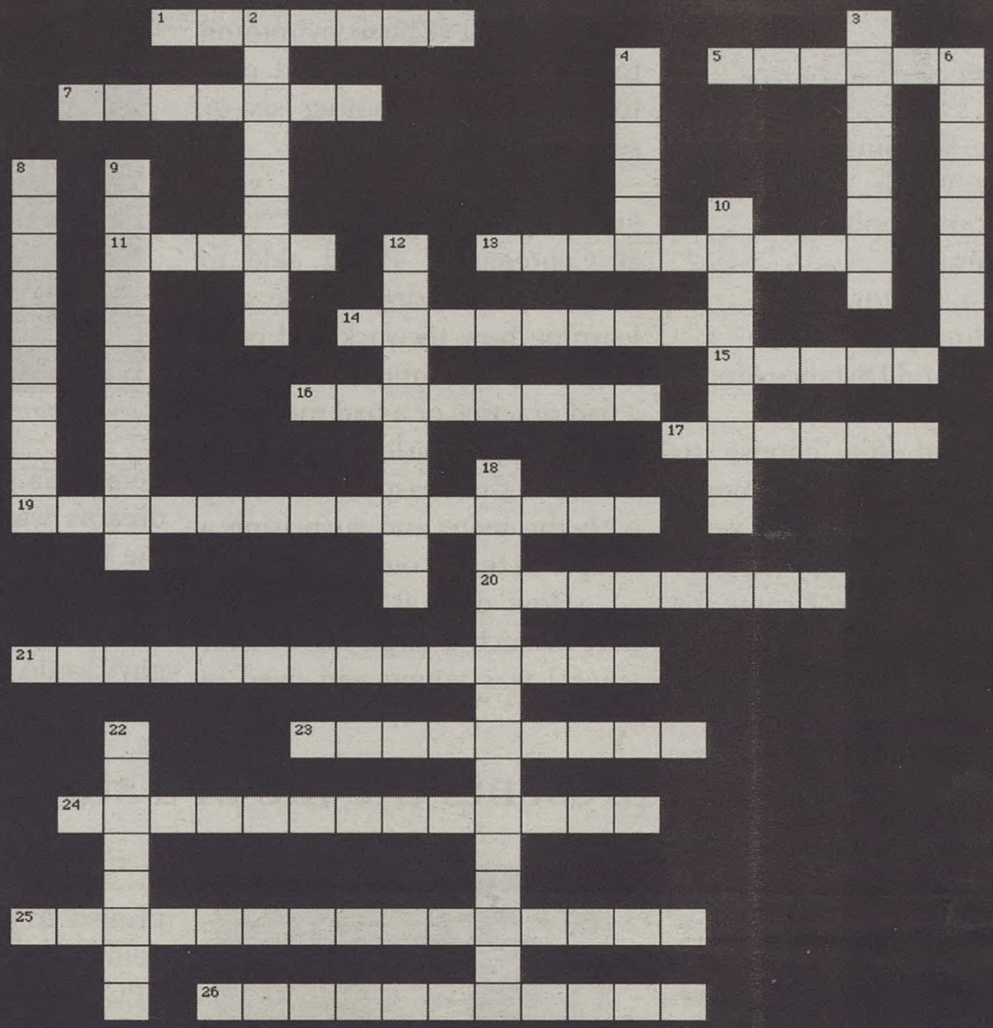
Scorpio (10/23- 11/21) "Life ain't so bad at all if you live it off the wall"

Sagittarius (11/22- 12/21) "Don't let no one get you down, keep movin' on higher ground"

Capricorn (12/22- 1/19) "You know that love survives"

Aquarius (1/20- 2/18) "Every day create your history. Every path you take you're leaving your legacy"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: POTTER-MANIA!



ACROSS
1. What is the first name of Sirius' brother?
5. What part of England do the Dursley's live in?
7. What character is at one point compared to a young killer whale?
11. What is Hermione's patronus?
13. What kind of dog is Fang?
14. What was the name of the company Uncle Vernon worked for?
15. What month is Ron's birthday in?
16. The owner of the Three Broomsticks is Madam ______.
17. James Potter's nickname
19. Place where Harry and company meet to take the portkey to the Quidditch World Cup.
20. What does Charlie rename Hagrid's "pet" dragon?
21. What is the name of Aunt Marge's neighbor?
23. In the fourth book what was the password to the Prefect's bath?
24. Who was killed by the Basilisk when the Chamber of Secrets was first opened?
25. What subject did Dumbledore teach when he was a regular profesor at Hogwarts?
26. Dumbledore defeated this wizard in 1945

DOWN
2. What helps Harry get through the second task of the TriWizard Tournament
3. The daughter of Rowena Ravenclaw
4. What is taken from the stomach of a goat?
6. The Weird Sisters appear at what event at Hogwarts?
8. There are 142 of these in Hogwarts.
9. Who is the only "person" that Peeves will listen to?
10. What is the spell that raises the Dark Mark?
12. Where did Grindelwald go to school?
18. What kind of dragon did Viktor Krum have to face in the TriWizard Tournament.
22. The swan patronus belongs to who?

Voodoo
music experience
October 26 · 27 · 28
performances by...
The Smashing Pumpkins
Rage Against the Machine
and many more....
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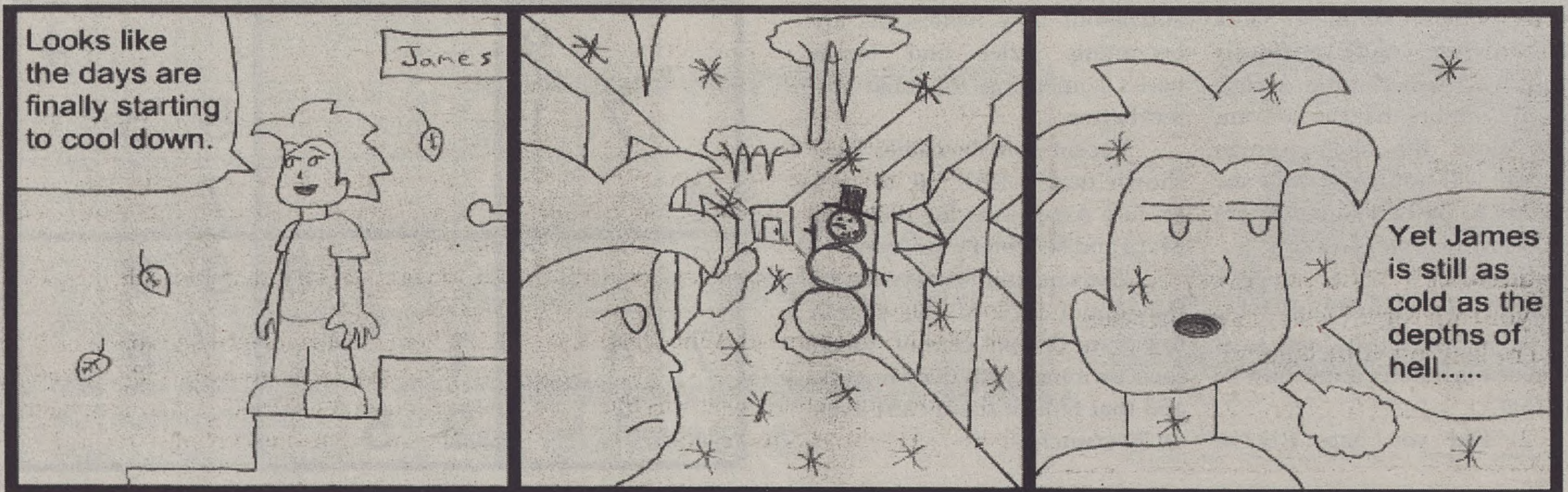
Black Crowes
Red Jumpsuit Apparatus
Marc Brousard
Gym Class Heroes
Spoon
Plain White T's
Coheed and Cambria
Dr. John
Bonerama
Motion City Soundtrack
Fall Out Boy
Meriwether
Fatter than Albert
Rotary Downs
Porcupine Tree
New Orleans
City Park
Single Day Tickets on sale now!
www.voodomusicfest.com

A Day with Christ

by Chris Christ


Looks like the days are finally starting to cool down.
James
Yet James is still as cold as the depths of hell.....

Strange but true news: catfighting nuns and obese Brits

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

You thought you'd seen everything. You thought you'd heard it all. You seriously thought O.J. would know better.

You thought wrong.

For reality is often stranger than fiction. Just like in that Will Ferrell movie. Yeah, "Elf."

So, without further ado, here are some of the craziest, stupidest things people have done in the past weeks.

1) What's better than a bunch of girls catfighting? A bunch of nuns catfighting!!

Sister Annamaria and Sister Gianbattista were recently expelled from their Santa Clara convent in Bari, Italy, after they physically attacked their Mother Superior, Sister Liliana.

The two nuns claim that they had been driven to a nervous breakdown and to the subsequent violence because of their Mother Superior's nasty and spiteful habits. I'm not exactly sure what a nun would mean by "nasty and spiteful habits," but apparently it was enough to scratch another nun's face and throw her to the ground, sending her to the hospital.

Now that the two belligerent nuns have been sent off to another convent, Sister Liliana is the only one remaining at Santa Clara (which had previously housed a total of three nuns). Despite rumors that the convent is to close, the older woman says she will not leave what she believes to be her home, where she has lived for 44 years.

So, what's better than a bunch of nuns catfighting?

...No, seriously, tell me, because I just don't know how to top that.

2) Did you hate P.E. in elementary school? Did you wish your school had some cool classes instead, like, say, swimming?

Well, 10-year-old Huang Li from Zhangjiajie in southern China couldn't take swimming either, so her dad decided to help her.

Huang Li, who has been swimming since she turned six, dreams of one day swimming across the English Channel. Since her family can't afford a trainer, the little girl's dad has been helping her practice.

So, why has Huang Li been the talk of Chinese newspapers? Because she's been practicing by swimming more than one and a half miles in the cold waters of the Xiang river... with both her wrists and ankles tied together with rope.

The dad swears the reason for the girl's determination is that she really, really, reeeeaaaally wants to swim across the British Channel. He also says that the whole tied-wrists-and-ankles thing was the girl's own idea, which she had seen on a TV show.

Yeah, well, I'm not going to let MY kids watch any TV until they turn at least twenty-five.

3) If you're sick of the media always talking about an "obesity epidemic" in the United States and about how Americans are becoming lazier and lazier, here's something to make you feel better.

Recent British studies have shown that it isn't fair to pick on just Americans for their Big Macs and sedentary lifestyles.

The said studies have found that about 53% of the people living in Britain cannot touch their own toes with their fingers, and that 68% of them can't even do 20 crunches.

Two thirds also admit to not having participated in any sort of demanding physical exercise in the past year – not even running or riding the bike.

Even more alarmingly, 60% of the women in the study would not be able to carry their own groceries from the store back to their apartment. And one fourth can't unclasp their own bras... without assistance.

I have a suspicion that one fourth of guys in Britain aren't really troubled by these findings.

4) Is food going to be the downfall of us all?

It certainly looks like it. First, a man in the United States sues a McDonald's employee because she put too much salt on his hamburger patty (see an earlier issue of the Congo).

Now, a Swiss man throws knives at the owner of a restaurant in Poland because he claims his kebob was too spicy.

The incident took place in the city of Krakow, in southern Poland, where the hungry 34-year-old ordered a mild kabob. What he got was too spicy for his tastes, so the restaurant owner apologized and offered to make another kebob for free.

For some reason, this only angered the customer, who grabbed a wicker basket containing plastic forks and knives and threw it at the owner's face, breaking his glasses. He then left the restaurant, only to come back a few minutes later, holding four knives in his hand. The knives all went flying at the owner, who fortunately had madd ducking skillz and wasn't hurt. The Swiss man was quickly arrested by the local police.

To be honest, I've always been worried that someone at Centenary will finally snap and hurt a bunch of people over the scrambled eggs served at the Caf.

Sudoku

				7	2		5	
	8				1		4	3
	2	3	4					
		9						4
	7	1				5	3	
4						7		
					6	9	2	
7	4		1				6	
	1		2	5				

The CONGLOMERATE

October 26, 2007 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 8

Governor-Elect Bobby Jindal speaks on campus

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

Governor-Elect Bobby Jindal visited the Centenary campus Tuesday, October 23rd, as part of a thank-you tour. Accompanied by wife Supriya, Jindal was introduced by Centenary President Dr. Kenneth Schwab and Sheriff Steve Prator. In a short speech in the Whited Room, Jindal thanked the attendees for their support, adding he was "filled not only with gratitude but a sense of responsibility."

Jindal is the first Indian-American in the nation to become a state governor, and when he takes office, he will be the nation's current youngest governor at 36. He talked about his parents following the pursuit of the American dream in Louisiana - his dad was the only one of nine children who went to high school. "I'm grateful to them for their hard work, and they've seen, as I've seen, what can be accomplished through hard work and dedication." Much has been made in the press of the celebrations taking place in his father's home village of Khanpura, India – his relatives have been quoted by the Associated Press as saying they would be honored to have Jindal visit, where he has not been for over 30 years.

Jindal joked he's traveled so frequently in north Louisiana that "One of the mayors made me an honorary citizen; five minutes later an assessor gave me a tax bill."

Jindal promised to keep traveling the state in order to minimize the influence from the special interest groups in Baton Rouge.

Jindal said, "The battle against corruption has just begun…they can go quietly or loudly, but they will go. Starting today, who you know is not as important as what you know." Jindal asked the attendees for help, and urged them to believe in Louisiana. "Don't let anybody talk badly about Louisiana starting today."

He said that Louisiana is not about corruption and incompetence anymore. He promised to call a special session to "set the gold standard for ethics for the entire country." Jindal reemphasized putting ethics first to improve not only the public's trust, but also the state's reputation. Jindal mentioned the importance of bolstering the workforce and economy.

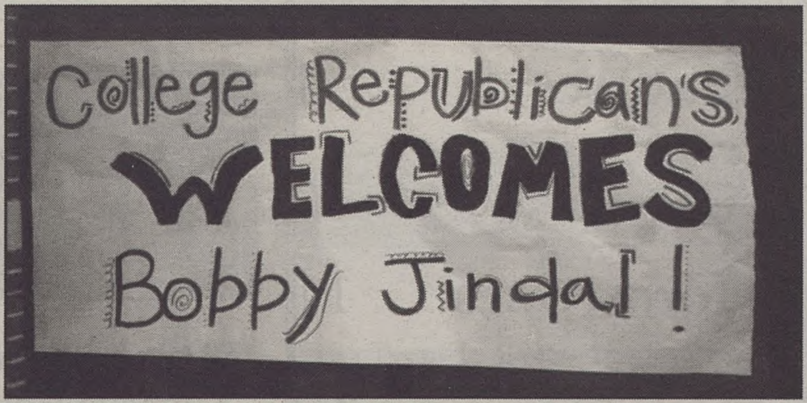
On dealing with the legislature, Jindal said, "I will not take no for an answer when it comes to declaring war on corruption right here in Louisiana." Jindal promised to visit President Bush and speak with him about Katrina and ensuring a permanent cyber command center at Barksdale.

"We can change, we must change, we will change," he said, an oft-repeated campaign phrase with which many crowd members present chanted along.

When asked about who he would support to take his congressional seat once he resigns it, Jindal responded, "We don't know who's running. I haven't resigned yet. I think the people of Louisiana are smart enough to vote without me telling them who to vote for."

To listen to a full recording of Bobby Jindal's speech, visit KSCL's website at www.kscl.fm.

Photos by Emily DeLatin.



Quote of the Week

"This is not a dream, okay? You're not going to wake up from this." –Stephen Colbert, who is running for President in his home state of South Carolina

Letter from the Editor: Special abbreviated issue is just for this week

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

If you're wondering why this week's Conglomerate is so short, fear not (hoping and/or assuming that that is fear which you're feeling). This special abbreviated issue is a one-time event. We're proud of the fact that we've grown in size, staff-wise and in publishing terms, in the last year – but the combination of Fall Break and the limited time we have this week means we could only produce a paper half of our normal size.

Earlier this week, we decided not to have a paper at all – until we heard the exciting news on Monday that the new Governor-Elect Bobby Jindal was going to be on campus Tuesday afternoon. Important news at Centenary may not happen on a daily basis, but when it does, we definitely want to be there to cover it.

That said, two other staff members and I will be attending the National College Media Convention in Washington, D.C. this week. Copy Editor Rhagen Russell and Layout Assistant Courtney Delaney accompanied me this Wednesday to D.C. for the conference, which is put on by the Associated Collegiate Press. We'll be back Sunday, certainly brimming with ideas about how to improve the newspaper in both content and design quality. We really have to thank the Provost, Dr. Colson, for helping out with the funds that are making this trip possible, as well as SGA – the money in the Conglomerate account is allocated by that organization every semester.

Washington, D.C. in itself is a great place to visit – and we'll have stories to tell, no doubt, as we're staying with Roxie Smith, a Centenary 2007 graduate and our beloved Editor-in-Chief of the paper for three semesters – but it's the conference that we're truly excited about. Reporters and editors from the likes of The Washington Post and National Public Radio are just a few of the people we'll be speaking with, and with over 400 workshops planned, we'll all be learning a lot to bring back home.

I appreciate everybody who reads the paper. Armed with information from the conference, we'll definitely be implementing some changes on the paper, and we'll definitely be wanting your feedback. As always, if you have any suggestions, feel free to contact us at paper@centenary.edu or come to our weekly meetings on Sundays at 9 p.m. in the office (third floor of the SUB).

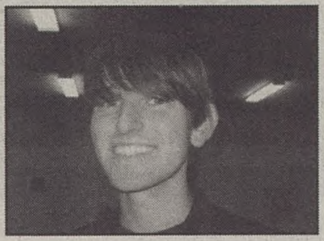
Question of the Week

WHAT POP CULTURE IDOL IS IN THE CLOSET?

(in honor of J. K. Rowling's revelation that Harry Potter's Albus Dumbledore is gay)

"Bush and Cheney." - Allison Cormier, Junior

"Big Bird." - Kathryn-Alizabeth Baker, Junior



"Gandalf." - Will Boothe, Junior

"Bert and Ernie." - Michelle Holt and Mindy McKoin, Juniors

"Tom Cruise." -Virginia-Kate Mather, Freshman

"Brian Littrell."- Mary Ham, Senior

Inside

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OPINIONS

Student believes Waggonner protest was in bad taste

Sarah Harper, Sophomore

Upon hearing and reading about the peaceful protest by James King and Amanda Russell, I was interested to find out what the reasoning behind it was. I can understand King's and Russell's thirst for a reason to desist in the policy, and the annoyance after not receiving one from either DPS or SLO. This, however, is not my problem. My problem is the simple fact of the situation and circumstances in which they protested: IT WAS A MAN'S FUNERAL. While they may not agree with what he did in his career, this has nothing to do with the fact that there are grieving family members, colleagues, and friends, as well as an institution honoring this man for his contributions. It is in poor taste. I, for one, do not want a protest of any kind happening at my funeral, nor would I be all too excited to attend one at which a protest occurs.

I work at/produce an AM radio talk show on weekday afternoons, and the show was in memoriam of Joe Waggonner, as well as another member of the Centenary family. We had several callers and guests recounting their experiences, memories, and grief over the deaths of these two men. Certainly these people would not want their fond memories of who these men were, their friendships, and their families to be tarnished by any kind of protest. Common courtesy is my reason for not favoring the protests of Mr. King and Ms. Russell.

I understand that, yes, maybe Dean Bradshaw should have cited a policy, or maybe she could have simply said what I have. Although I have not at all contacted her, something tells me that she did not want the Centenary image to be seen improperly, or even the same reasons that I've cited. Captain Aull is merely an enforcer in this incident, so he is pretty much out of this equation. I, too, have heard, and possibly perpetuated, the animosity of the Student Life Office, and in this case, no matter their reasoning, they did the proper thing. I'm not necessarily "on their side," but I'm on the side of their response. Surely, the principle of the argument is "where's the policy?," but I am arguing a different matter, I guess. Human decency should tell you to NOT PROTEST AT A MEMORIAL SERVICE. I don't care what the man did (notice that I'm not supporting it, and that he wasn't the only one of his time to act towards a segregated society); it's common courtesy. The last thing grieving people want is a ruckus that appears to be over parking at first glance. That's just ridiculous.

Please don't protest anything at my funeral.

Ever thought about living in another country?
Or what it's like to be from a minority culture in the U.S.?
How does culture affect YOUR life?
Discuss these issues and more in

**Diversity & You:
A Multicultural
Online Chat
Sunday, Oct. 28
8:00pm to 9:30pm**

Just go to the Centenary homepage this Sunday and click on "Diversity and You"
Sponsored by Counseling Services and Intercultural Affairs

For more information, contact Kelly Gay at
kgay@centenary.edu or 841-7234

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Other state election results include a runoff race for Attorney General

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

According to the Louisiana State Secretary of State website, Republican Bobby Jindal won Governor with 54% of the vote. His closest competitors were Democrat Walter Boasso with 17%, Independent John Georges with 14%, followed by Democrat Foster Campbell with 12% of the vote.

Incumbent Democrat Mitch Landrieu was reelected Lieutenant Governor with 57%; closest competitor Republican Sammy Kershaw had 30% of the vote. Incumbent Republican Jay Dardenne was reelected Secretary of State with 63% of the vote to the 31% who voted for Democrat R. Wooley.

Incumbent Republican Jim Donelan was reelected Commissioner of Insurance with 51% of the vote to the 36% that voted for closest competitor James "Jim" Crowley.

For the Louisiana Board of Elementary & Secondary Education (BESE), District 2 (451 precincts) elected Democrat Louella P. Givens with 62% of the vote over Democrat Ernest Marcelle, Jr., who had 38%. District 4 (511 precincts, includes Caddo and Bossier parishes) elected Democrat Walter C. Lee with 58% of the vote over Republican Robert J. "Bob" Wynn, who had 42% of the vote. District 7 (505 precincts) elected Democrat Dale Bayard with 51% of the vote over Republican Charlie Buckels, who had 49%. District 8 (535 precincts) elected Democrat Linda M. Johnston with 66% of the vote over "No Party" candidate Darrel W. Glasper, who had 34%.

The state-level runoff races will consist of:

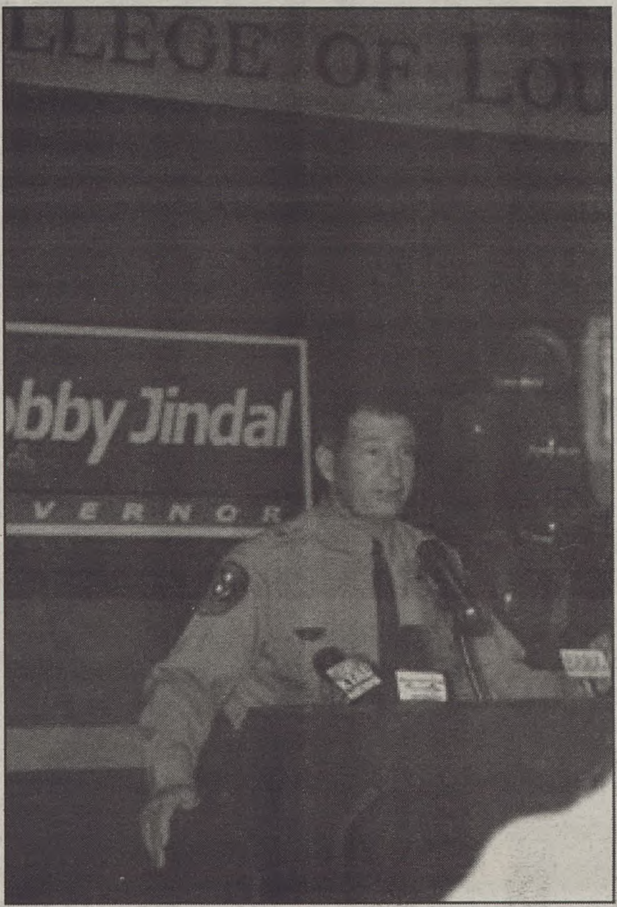
* Republican Royal Alexander (won 32% of primary vote) versus Democrat James D. "Buddy" Caldwell (won 36% of primary vote) for Attorney General.

* Democrat Bob Odom (won 41% of primary vote) versus Republican Mike Strain (won 40% of primary vote) for Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry.

* Democrat Keith Guice (won 27% of primary vote) versus Republican Ruth Ulrich (won 39% of primary vote) for District 5 (636 precincts) of BESE.

For information about voter registration or elections, visit http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/.

Bobby Jindal
GOVERNOR
A Fresh Start For Louisiana
www.BobbyJindal.com



left: The Bobby Jindal bus outside Bynum Commons as the Governor-Elect made a stop on his "Thank You" tour at Centenary.
above: Sheriff Steve Prator introduces Jindal.
below: Jindal speaks with his wife Supriya at his side.
All photos by Emily DeLatin.

y Jindal
RNO

left: Centenary College President Dr. Kenneth Schwab speaks briefly before Sheriff Steve Prator about Jindal's presence on campus.
above: Jindal stands beside Prator as the latter introduces the Governor-Elect, as he did throughout Jindal's campaign.
All photos by Emily DeLatin.

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A&E

"The Devil's Backbone" is an original ghost movie to watch this Halloween

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

I love a good ghost movie as much as the next person. However, some ghost movies tend to not be very good and they are very rarely scary or even interesting for that matter. However, I have found a very interesting and often scary ghost film with one of the coolest ghosts that I have ever seen in a movie. That movie is "The Devil's Backbone."

Directed by Guillermo Del Toro, who also directed the brilliant "Pan's Labyrinth," this movie is about a young boy named Carlos who is sent to live in a boarding school in the middle of nowhere during the Spanish Civil War. Almost immediately, we can tell that something is not right in this place. The adults who run the school act with very little care toward the students, especially Jacinto, who is the resident repairman/mean-spirited villain of the school. Everyone in the school has a motive and some of them are not very good.

Carlos must also deal with bullies who are hiding secrets of their own and a ghost who appears to have it out for Carlos. These plot threads slowly unravel themselves into a climax that will truly leave you clutching the chair you sit in as you wonder how it will end.

While it is not as good as "Pan's Labyrinth," this movie is well worth the time and effort of finding and watching. Del Toro is an absolute master of macabre fantasy stories and writing villains that you absolutely love to hate. The main villain of this film is Jacinto, who completely loathes the children and is not above killing anyone who gets in his way (kids included). He has a single-minded goal (which I will not spoil here) and will not let children, teachers, or a ghost get in his way.

Speaking of the ghost, prepare for some awesome visual effects, with the ghost appearing like he is underwater while standing in the open. This ghost's design is truly inspired.

The mood and atmosphere of the film are top-notch and up there with the best ghost movies ever made. The performances are top-notch and the music is also great. The design of the school is very creepy, especially in its stone architecture, which reminds me of the castles that can be very scary unto themselves. The technical side of this film is amazing, especially when you realize that the film was made for practically nothing.

I wholeheartedly recommend this film. It is scary, entertaining, intense, and always satisfying. Watch this and "Pan's Labyrinth" in a double feature and you will be guaranteed some of the best fantasy filmmaking that Spanish cinema or cinema in general has to offer. With its brutal imagery, scary sequences, and creepy atmosphere, the movie is guaranteed to leave some chills this Halloween.

Take My Advice

Writing Lab	Magale Library 1A Sunday - Thursday	**8:00-10:00pm**
Math Lab	Wright Math Building Sunday - Thursday	**6:00-8:00pm**
Subject Labs	Magale Library 1A	**6:00-9:00pm**
Biology	Monday & Tuesday	
Economics	Monday & Tuesday	
French	Sunday & Monday	
German	Thursday	
History	Sunday & Wednesday	
Physics	Thursday	
Political Science	Sunday & Wednesday	
Psychology	Thursday	
Religious Studies	Monday & Tuesday	
Spanish	Wednesday	

Learning and all ARCS services are free to all Centenary Students. If you have any questions contact Dr. Meg Webber or Dr. Kim VanHoosier-Carey at arcs@centenary.edu

Academic Resource Center for Students (arcs)

www.centenary.edu/arcs

The Conglomerate presents the best scary movie villains

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

As Halloween approaches, we must take a look at some of the most favorite movie villains.

He kills kids, adults, and has haunted dreams for over ten years. Freddy Kruger is one of the greatest villains because he kills while the victims are sleeping. He had many viewers afraid to go to bed or even nap.

Would you like to take a ride with me to Crystal Lake? Many would decline because they know that Crystal Lake is the death place of Jason. Jason, the guy in the hockey mask, had audiences jumping from fear because of his terrifying antics.

"Hi, I'm Chucky. Wanna play?" That one little phrase still causes smiles to spread across the faces of some. Chucky, the Good Guy doll possessed by serial killer Charles Lee Ray, had people laughing at his wit and anxiously watching his quest to "get out of this body."

His road traveled has given him a wife and a child. The first one is a classic, though.

The villains from the "Scream" trilogy are great. One of the best things about them, particularly in the first "Scream," is the fact that the audience does not know who the killer is. "Scream" had the audiences suspecting everyone in the movie before finally finding out who the real killers were. "There's a formula, a very simple formula. Everybody's a suspect!"

"Want to play a game?" Jigsaw is one of the best villains mainly because he does not kill. He puts the victims in situations, and he wants them to survive and learn a lesson. It is not until someone else continues his work that the lessons change. "X marks the spot."

Do you know your family tree well? If so, I hope you aren't related to Michael Myers. Myers is a great villain because he doesn't kill at random. He kills his family and those that get in the way of him in his quest for his surviving sister. That was great for the audience because we were exposed to his pursuit of his sister and his sister's mission of survival. We traveled over twenty years with them.

"Where'd you get those eyes?" BEATNGU, or the killer from "Jeepers Creepers," is great because he wants something from the victims, but it isn't clear what that something is. And the dumping of the bodies is brilliant.

"I Know What You Did Last Summer" had many people watching how they drove. Ben is a great killer because the victims don't know what he looks like. The audience goes on a trip with the victims to find out about Ben. In the sequel, Ben's son is an awesome villain as well.

The blackout in the village of Midwich causes every female to get pregnant. What they give birth to are strange children. The attire, empty personalities, and platinum blonde hair are no comparison for the piercing eyes. "The eyes are the window to the soul," and their eyes allow them into the minds of their victims. They can then control the victims' actions. Led by Mara, played by Lindsey Haun, the children turn the town into a "Village of the Damned."

Leatherface from "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" is a frightening villain. He is large, burly, and scary. He seems to come out of nowhere and attack his victims. However, the victims' friends may see the victims again - their faces, anyway. Leatherface sews the faces of victims into a mask and wears it. The scariest thing about Leatherface's tale is that it is loosely based on a true story.

Movie review: Never a dull moment with "Michael Clayton"

Riley Adams
Staff Writer

Michael Clayton, played by George Clooney, is a distinguished "fixer" in one of the most powerful law firms in New York. Clayton is under much distress after his failed marriage, failed business venture, and his emotional exhaustion.

He does not wish to work for the law firm, but it is the only certainty in his life, and he remains inextricably linked to the fictitious law firm. He cleans up clients' messes, manages risk, and he is a realist.

He tells clients what they do not want to hear; he ends their dreams of the ideal "options." One client complains that he was told Clayton was a miracle worker. "I'm not a miracle worker," Clayton replies. "I'm a janitor."

The opening words spoken by Tom Wilkinson's character, Arthur Edens, try to convince Michael Clayton of his inexorable sense of justice. Edens worked for the past six years for an agriculture giant named U/North on a civil suit brought about by more than 400 victims of contaminated well water.

Edens discovers the truth while researching the lawsuit and realizes that as a humanist he must fight for righteousness. The plot ensues from there and never leaves the audience with a dull moment. There is no doubt that this movie is about the journey, not the destination.

MOVIE TIMES

at Tinseltown this Friday through Saturday
selected movies shown; parentheses indicate matinee discount showings

Michael Clayton
(1:45), (4:30), 7:15, 10:00

Across the Universe
(3:00), 6:45, 9:55

Tim Burton's A Nightmare Before Christmas in 3D
(2:00), (4:25). 6:55. 9:25

Saw IV
(1:40), (2:45), (4:05), (5:05), 7:10, 7:55, 9:35, 10:40

Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?
(1:30), (2:10), (4:15), (5:00), 7:00, 7:50, 9:50, 10:35

Movie review: Do not seek out "The Seeker"

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Fantasy films are making a resurgence in a big way. Especially fantasy films based on young adult fantasy series. We have "Harry Potter," "Narnia," "Eragon," "His Dark Materials," and now we have "The Dark is Rising Sequence." Some of these films have managed to be very good movies ("Potter" and "Narnia"), while some were kind of terrible ("Eragon"). So, with some trepidation (and a very bad trailer to use as evidence for that trepidation), I watched "The Seeker: The Dark is Rising."

So was the movie any good? Well, it seems that my trepidations about the movie were well-founded, because it is definitely not any good. This is a shame, because from what I have heard about the series, there was a good movie in there somewhere.

Anyway, the movie is about a boy named Will, who has a very large family. One day he starts exhibiting strange abilities and is followed by a strange black rider (Christopher Eccleston). However, before the rider can do anything to him, he is rescued by four people called the Old Ones, who are led by Merriman (Ian McShane).

They tell Will that they work for a force called the Light and that he is a Seeker who must find six signs that will defeat the force called the Dark. From there he travels through time to find the signs, which are little medallions that are hidden in several items.

Well, when I saw the cast being listed at the beginning of the movie, there was some hope, but it was quickly lost when Will hit the screen. He is such a boring protagonist that I was hoping Eccleston would win in the end (it also doesn't help that Eccleston is so damn cool).

Anyway, the cast truly phones it in, except for Eccleston, who realizes that he is in a bad movie and hams it up appropriately. This is a shame because we have Ian McShane (if anyone has ever watched "Deadwood," then you know what I mean). He plays the mentor character but you can tell he only showed up for the paycheck.

Another major problem with this movie is the tone. It can't decide if it wants to be a family-friendly kids' adventure movie or a dark fantasy film. This hurts the film in a big way.

The camera in the movie makes way too many fancy swoops, turns, twirls, and more fancy flourishes than a Bruckheimer movie. However, this is not shaky cam, but rather ECS (erratic camera syndrome).

The movie is extremely predictable. I was telegraphing everything that happened before it actually happened. Sadly, even predictable movies can be entertaining if everything else is done well, but this is not the case. The acting is stale, the special effects are shoddy at best, the story is jumpy and suffers from a case of ADD, and there is no real sense of danger at any moment of the film.

The primary problem of "The Seeker" is that it is boring. I found myself checking the time during the entire movie. The signs for this being a good movie are not here.

In short, do not seek out "The Seeker."

Movie review: Tyler Perry's "Why Did I Get Married?" is heartfelt, funny, and all about love

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Tyler Perry's "Why Did I Get Married?" is a movie about four married couples. They were friends in college and now that they are older they go on a couples' retreat annually. It stars Tyler Perry, Jill Scott, Janet Jackson, Malik Yoba, Michael Jai White, Sharon Leal, Richard T. Jones, Tasha Smith, Lamman Rucker, and Kaira Whitehood. At this particular retreat, secrets, lies and infidelity are revealed. There are a few elements that had me crinkling my brow, but the movie overall is something that I encourage all to see.

This is the first movie where Tyler Perry has a starring role and is not playing Madea. If you miss Madea, don't worry. As Tyler Perry talks fast, gets angry, laughs, and whispers, he sounds just like Madea.

At the beginning of the movie, when Patricia, played by Janet Jackson, gives the rundown of her friends, it is clear that they all have some issues that they need to work on. The audience is hooked from the beginning. As the story unfolds, it is nearly impossible to not gasp at the actions.

"We all got secrets" is a phrase to wait for. This is said at the dinner table during the retreat. I advise you to not get popcorn at this part because it is the climax of the movie and the moment when all of the secrets are revealed. I won't give any away because they are all shock worthy.

The bad things in the movie are small yet very noticeable. A main thing about the movie that I found unrealistic is the fact that these people who've been friends since college are terrible friends. Mike, played by Richard T. Jones, had his wife, Sheila, played by Jill Scott, drive all the way to Colorado and when he told his friends they were upset at first, but went on as if they could care less.

After the climax, when the couples have to deal with the revealed secrets, it seems like the movie is rushed. Some issues are brought up and resolved in less than five minutes, which seems unrealistic. However, with a movie this good, the unrealistic elements are acceptable.

Not since "Dreamgirls" has an all-black cast made such a good movie. "Why Did I Get Married?" is heartfelt, funny, and it gives the audience a message. With the four different couples giving four different messages, the audience can choose its lesson learned. Above all, this is a great movie about love. I recommend "Why Did I Get Married?" to all.

Gay Dumbledore makes the world a gayer place

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Caution: Some spoilers for "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" follow. If you don't want to be spoiled, don't read, and if you haven't finished reading, get on with it.

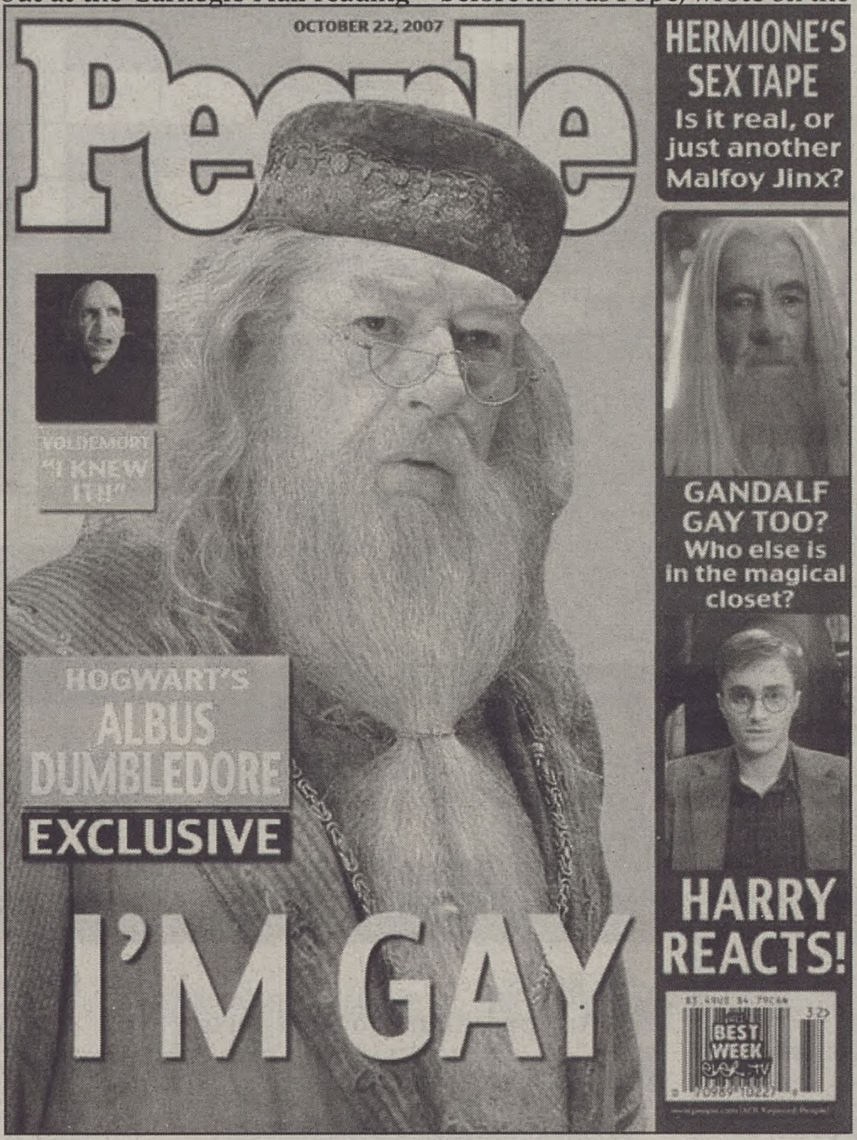
At the Carnegie Hall stop of her U.S. book tour last Friday, "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling revealed that Hogwarts Headmaster and Order of the Phoenix hero Albus Dumbledore is gay – to much surprise and approval from her audience, both in the hall and around the world.

When asked if Dumbledore ever found true love, Rowling's response was that she always thought he was gay – and in fact, he had fallen in love with Gellert Grindelwald, his best friend for one summer during his teens and the man who went on to become the most feared Dark wizard of his time (before Voldemort).

Rowling's revelation has been met with uproarious approval by many "Harry Potter" fans (and even non-fans), and to a less visible extent, disapproval. The non-fans excited by this news are in sync with the rest of the giddy community in that a major gay character in what is undoubtedly one of the most popular and best-selling series of our time is a positive step forward for tolerance in society.

Not only is Dumbledore the key character other than Harry hailed as a real hero throughout the series, but he was Headmaster of Hogwarts – in charge of hundreds of children, whom he always put first and whom he protected to the best of his rather impressive abilities. One of the most common misconceptions about homosexuals is their inability to properly raise children; Dumbledore may just be a fictional character, but he's a great one, and inspiring at that. Rowling is pleased with her announcement and the potential positive impact – an impact that has already been realized. She knows at least one man who came out at the Carnegie Hall reading last week, as The Toronto Star reported from a citywide press conference.

There are also murmurs, however, that this completely changes the character of Dumbledore (and not for the better), or that the author has made sexuality an issue in what many considered to be an asexual mentor, a la Gandalf in Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings." (I say murmurs because most of these people have not ventured beyond the message boards on popular fan sites The Leaky Cauldron and Mugglenet.) Pope Benedict or the Catholic church have yet to make any kind of statement, but it is safe to assume that will happen – Joseph Ratzinger, before he was Pope, wrote on the evils of the witchcraft promoted in "Harry Potter."



Rowling herself has acknowledged this will give people one more reason to ban or even burn her books, which does take place around the country – and which she seems to wear as a badge of honor.

Another interesting aspect of the story shows a bit of a trend in the series - that of the depressingly tragic love story. Fans discovered the true tragedy of Severus Snape's life in "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" – his unrequited love for Lily, Harry's mother, and the reason he protects Harry as he does. Rowling has not stated whether or not Dumbledore's love was unrequited, but we do know that even their friendship was not enough to stop Grindelwald from turning to darker methods of world domination. Dumbledore had to fight his former friend in 1945, and ultimately defeat him, in order to stop the deaths, disappearances, and disturbances he was causing in the wider world. (O tragedy!)

Some people have questioned why Rowling didn't have Dumbledore come out in the series, but that would have surely overshadowed more pertinent and important aspects of the plot. The author has said herself that his "rather tragic infatuation" could not have been revealed until or after book seven because of the new information about his relationship with Grindelwald.

Other interesting information Rowling revealed on the book tour includes the news that Neville Longbottom eventually married Hufflepuff Hannah Abbott, who went on to become the landlady at The Leaky Cauldron pub. A rather hilarious moment came when an eight-year-old asked exactly what inappropriate charms Aberforth Dumbledore performed on goats that got him in trouble – to which she responded, simple cleaning charms and ways to make the horns curly "is my answer to you" (emphasis on you, after asking the questioner's age).

Other stops on her book tour included Los Angeles and New Orleans.

Mock People magazine cover courtesy of www.bestweekever.tv.

HOROSCOPES

In honor of Halloween this week's horoscopes will reveal each astrological sign's ultimate Halloween costume. If you are brave enough to actually don these outfits on October 31st send the Conglomerate pictures of yourself at paper@centenary.edu for print.

Aries (3/21- 4/19) Your favorite (or least) fast food mascot like that creepy Burger King guy.

Taurus (4/20- 5/20) Your favorite old school video game, i.e. pong, Pacman... be creative.

Gemini (5/21- 6/21) Cereal Killer. And no, that is not a typo. Your victims are Lucky Charms, Cocoa Puffs, etc.

Cancer (6/22- 7/22) A cross-dressing President. George Bush in a taffeta prom dress = beautiful.

Leo (7/23- 8/22) The sixth Spice Girl.

Virgo (8/23- 9/22) An ill-mannered nun. Think Courtney Love in a habit.

Libra (9/23- 10/22) The Pope as a pimp; switch the hats and you've got it made.

Scorpio (10/23- 11/21) Your favorite, or least favorite, professor.

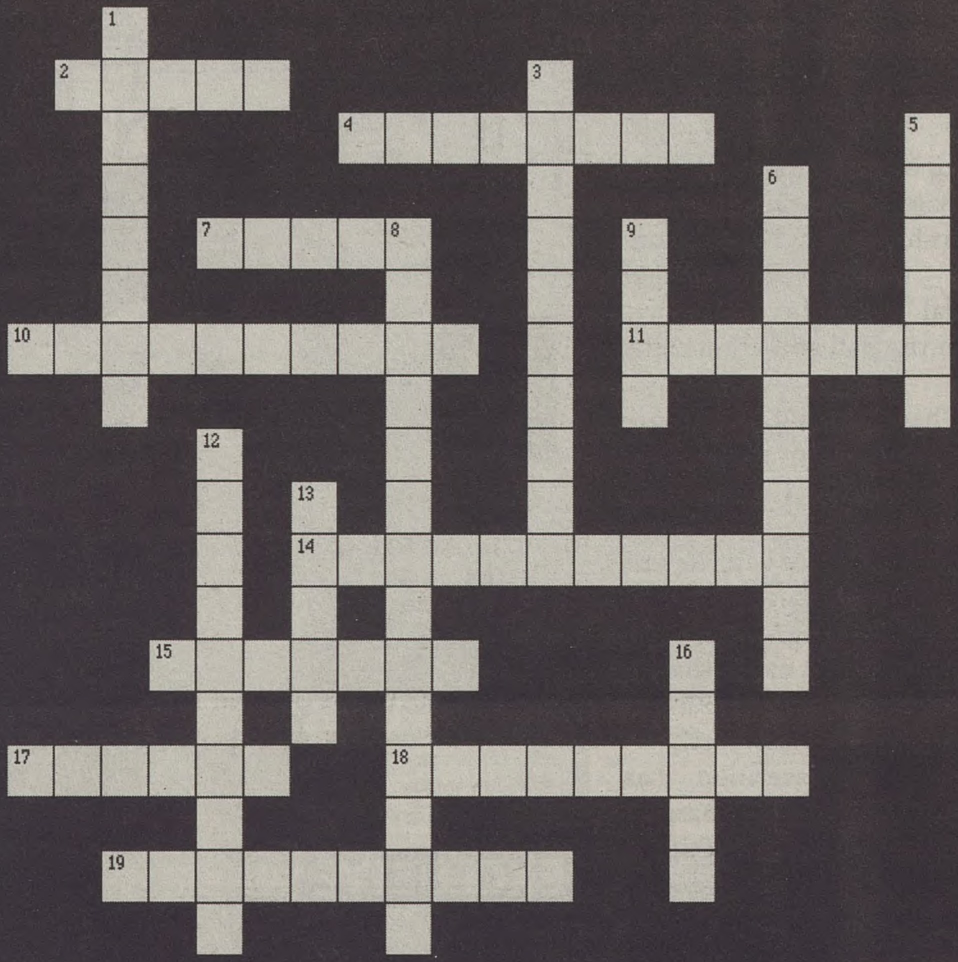
Sagittarius (11/22- 12/21) Worst super villian ever.

Capricorn (12/22- 1/19) The President of your dreams, i.e. Chuck Norris, Christopher Walken. It would help to wear a "[enter name here] for President" shirt.

Aquarius (1/20- 2/18) Drunken Jackie O. She's stylish but she knows how to party!

Pisces (2/19- 3/20) Nudist on Strike.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



ACROSS
2. An apparition of a dead person
4. _________'s Baby
7. Woman thought to have evil magical powers
10. Creepy movie starring Jack Nicholson
11. Thriller about a doll that comes to life
14. "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" antagonist
15. Famous vampire
17. Soulless corpse
18. Tim Burton film "The Nightmare Before _________"
19. Movie starring Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker and Kathy Najimy who play three sisters who are witches

DOWN
1. Popular Michael Jackson song with a nifty dance
3. "________ Horror," a horror film about a possessed house.
5. Eight legged arachnid
6. ______ or ______
8. Anthony Hopkin's infamous character in "Silence of the Lambs"
9. _____ - o - lantern
12. ______ ______ project
13. Color of a cat (specific to this holiday)
16. Well preserved body, usually Egyptian

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS BULLETIN

This Wednesday, October 26th, the Centenary chapter of Amnesty International hosted Darfur Awareness Night in the SUB. A short documentary about the illegal arms trade followed by the Nicolas Cage movie "Lord of War" was shown to generate discussion about the ongoing situation. In the spirit of awareness, here are some facts about the Darfur Conflict, taken from www.savedarfur.org.

More than 2 million innocent people have been forced from their homes due to the Darfur Conflict.

At least 400,000 people have been killed.

Over 3.5 million people rely entirely on international aid in order to survive.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, has called the Darfur Conflict "the largest and most complex humanitarian problem on the globe."

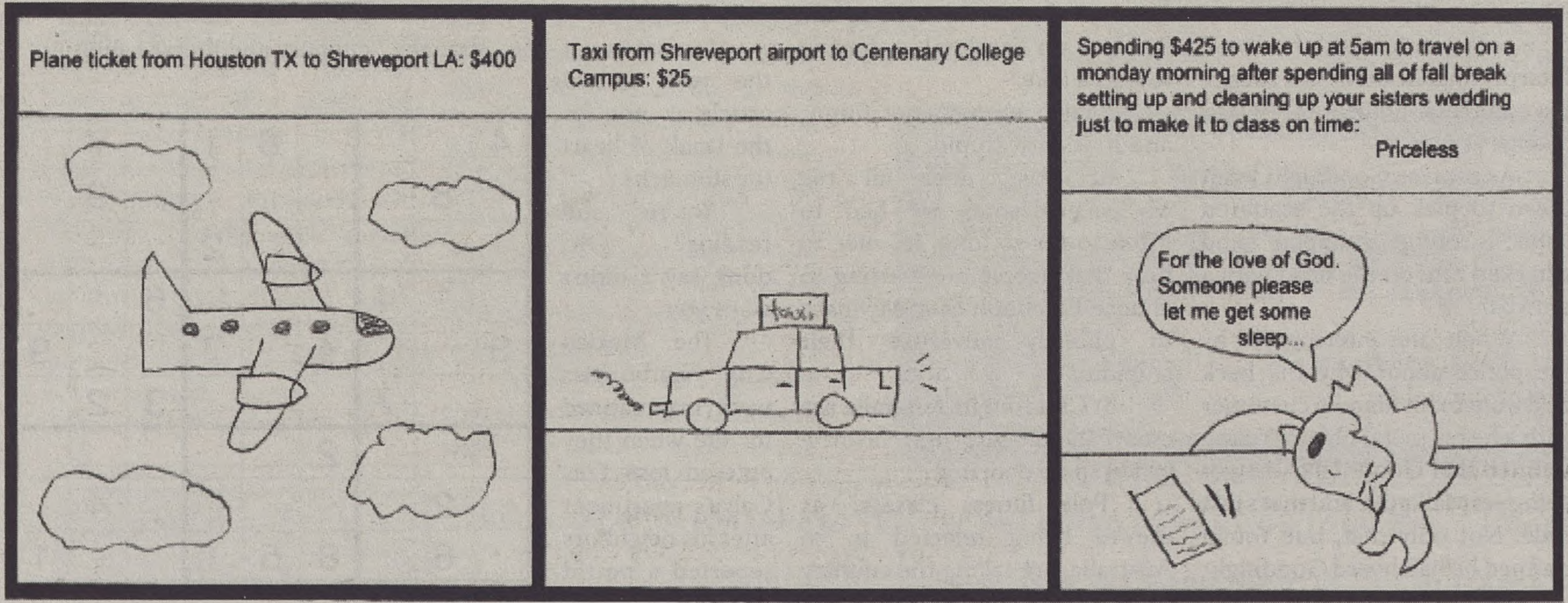
The conflict has been going on since July of 2003.

Although most non-government organizations say that 200,000 to 400,000 people have been killed in Darfur, the Sudanese government claims that only about 9,000 have died.

For more information, visit www.amnesty.org. To find out how you can get involved with the Centenary chapter, contact Group Coordinator Megan Ottesen at mottesen@centenary.edu.

A Day with Christ

by Chris Christ


Plane ticket from Houston TX to Shreveport LA: $400
Taxi from Shreveport airport to Centenary College Campus: $25
taxi
Spending $425 to wake up at 5am to travel on a monday morning after spending all of fall break setting up and cleaning up your sisters wedding just to make it to class on time:
Priceless
For the love of God. Someone please let me get some sleep...

Strange but true: creepy Halloween stories and one about pole-dancing

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

It's Halloween time again.

Scary, creepy stuff everywhere, people dressing up and doing weird things to each other...

So, how does that affect the weird news column? Not that much, actually.

Because writing the weird news always feels like Halloween to me. It's that same mixture of funny and creepy.

But, just for tradition's sake, I do have one news report that is especially blood-chilling to read. Anything for you, my dear readers. Anything for you.

1) Did you hear that joke about a deaf guy walking into Family Dollar and getting hit on the head with a crowbar because the cashier thinks he's being rude?

Probably not since, A) that's not funny, and B) it really happened.

Cody Goodnight, who had lost his hearing at a very young age and never learned to speak, was trying to buy a soft drink for his son at a Family Dollar store in Fort Worth, TX.

At the checkout, the cashier, Ricky Benard Young, tried to start up a conversation with him, and interpreting Goodnight's silence for rudeness, angrily threw the change at him.

As soon as Goodnight knelt down to pick up the scattered coins, Young snapped and whacked him on the head with a crowbar.

When later interrogated by the police about why the heck he'd want to hit his own customer with a heavy metal object, Young claimed that Goodnight was not being very talkative and that's just rude. Not only that, but Young claimed he had heard Goodnight mumble a racist remark at one point, which is what made him reach for the crowbar, in an act of self-defense.

When told by the police that Goodnight was deaf and could not speak, Young's only comment was "Oh."

Crazy homicidal cashiers aside, what weirds me out the most is that the cashier casually carried around a crowbar with him all day.

2) Five women from Munice, Indiana, have recently been arrested for attacking another woman, an Ivy Tech student.

Rene Whiteley, Ashley Kirkman, Kari Streib, Alysse Popov (Ball State University students), and Amanda Polson (friend) are charged with battery with serious bodily injury for pushing the other woman on the ground, kicking her all over her body and breaking her elbow.

The police say that "the attack stemmed from the victim's friend going out with a boyfriend of one of the suspects some time ago" (quoted from www.theindychannel.com because I wasn't even going to try to rephrase that).

So, how was the victim able to identify some of her attackers? Because they wrote about the incident on Facebook, referring to it as a joke.

Again, A) that's not funny, and B) it's just stupid.

At least, after all the MySpace dramas we had to listen to for so long, it's nice to hear that people are starting to choose Facebook over MySpace to publicly advertise their stupidity.

3) Children in Australia are crazy about their new favorite hobby: pole dancing!

"Pole fitness classes," as they're being referred to in Australia, are taking the country by storm, with children as young as seven signing up for the program.

But before you write a long, angry letter to the Australian government about how their children are being demoralized, I should point out that the pole danc-I mean, fitness classes are only supposed to increase one's strength and flexibility.

That's why some people believe they're good for kids with chronic conditions, such as coeliac disease.

Moreover, parents who take their kids to Pole Fitness Studios, or other similar venues that have mushroomed all across Australia, claim that the activities are purely gymnastic and not sexual in nature.

The Australian Family Group, however, argues that pole danc-I mean, fitness classes "[teach children] a sexual body language they don't know the meaning of but adults do" (news.ninemsn.com.au).

[insert witty comment, possibly a pun about me being a Pole]

4) And now, since this is our Halloween issue, comes a news story straight out of a Stephen King novel, or better yet, "Tales from the Crypt."

I must warn you, though: the rest of this article is not for the weak of heart (or stomach).

You're still reading? OK, don't say I didn't warn you...

The Mexico City authorities were traumatized for life when they entered Jose Luis Calva's apartment after his neighbors reported a putrid smell.

It's not that they found his girlfriend's, Alejandra Galeana's, decomposing body – it's that they found it in several different places. The torso stacked neatly in the closet, a leg on a shelf in the fridge, and a few bones in the cereal box (no word on what kind of cereal, though).

Calva, an aspiring poet and horror writer, admitted to having boiled some of his girlfriend's flesh but denied eating it. Though the chunks of fried meat on the pan looked kind of suspicious and are being tested by the police to make sure that they're really nothing more than beef stroganoff.

The Mexican police also found a draft of Calva's novel, "Cannibalistic Instincts," and are investigating the man for two more killings: one of his ex-girlfriend, who was found dismembered in 2004, and another of a prostitute who was killed earlier this year.

They'll probably have a nice little chat with the man once he's out of the hospital – where he was sent after trying to run away from the police and getting hit by a car.

Apparently, his running skills are nowhere near his culinary and literary abilities.

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The CONGLOMERATE

November 2, 2007 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 9

HALLOWEEN HOOPLA 2007

Basketball season introduced with a bang

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

The basketball season was introduced with a bang Wednesday night with the Halloween Hoopla event at the Gold Dome. With the combined efforts of CAB, Residence Life, the Athletic Department, and other Centenary organizations, the night's activities both entertained students and demonstrated the college's collective athletic prowess.

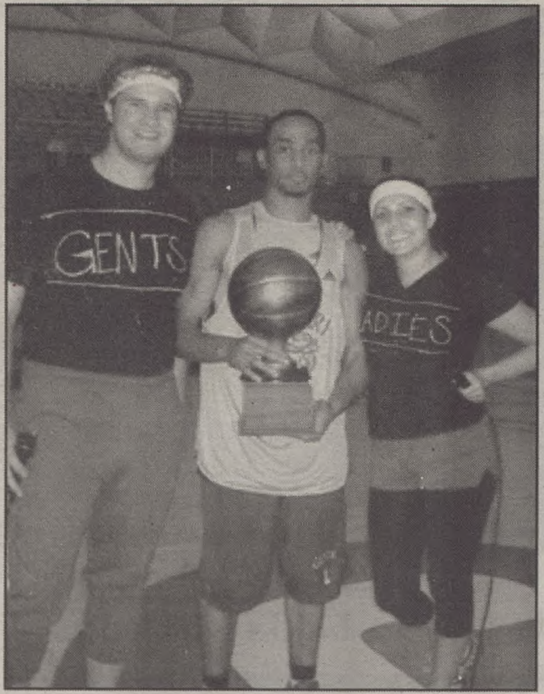
Over a hundred Centenary students filed into the Gold Dome for the Hoopla, which consisted of Halloween-themed activities, basketball competitions, and an impressive show from the gymnastics team. Students Ben Crismon and Lindsay Ezell were the emcees for the night and provided running commentary of the various competitions – a dunk contest, a Maroon vs. White scrimmage, and a costume contest.

Junior Nick Stallings, who is from New Orleans, won the dunk contest easily with high-flying stunts that had the crowd both apprehensive and then screaming with support. Entrants in the costume contest included students and even one basketball coach Rob Flaska.

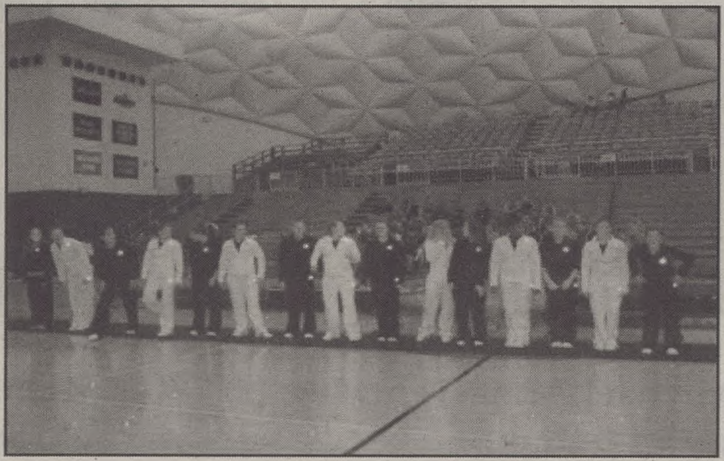
The Hoopla also had local Centenary alumni in attendance– James Maher, a 2006 graduate, came out to show support for the athletic teams. "I like that it was very interactive for the fans and they gave out good prizes," Maher said, referring to the Centenary paraphernalia awarded to contest winners and regularly thrown into the crowd by the emcees and basketball players.

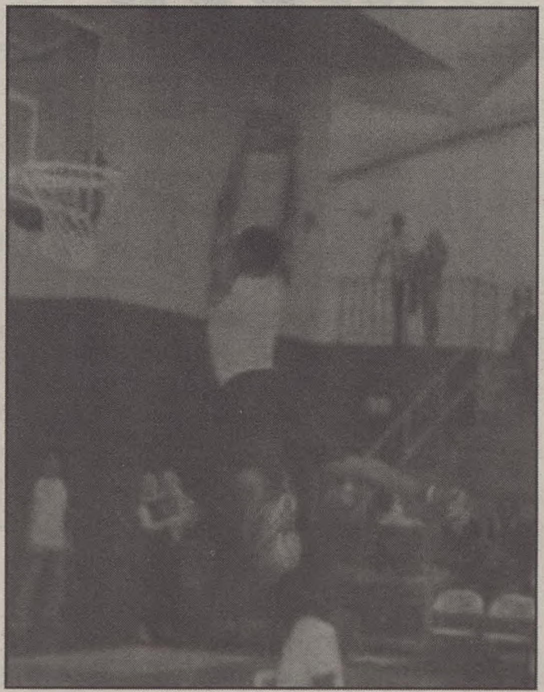
"I came because I like to support all different aspects of the school, and athletics is a pretty big one," said Senior Parker Jarnigan. After the Hoopla, many students trekked over to Cline for the Haunted House in the basement.

The basketball teams will play an exhibition game against LSU Shreveport next Tuesday, November 6th, before starting the season the following weekend. On the 9th and 10th, the men's team will travel to Iowa to compete in the Iowa State Tournament, while the women will be playing in Mississippi.



Top left: Coach Rob Flaska joins in the Halloween festivities.
Top right: A very creative entrant in the costume contest.
Bottom left: Junior Nick Stallings displays his dunk contest trophy with emcees Ben Crismon and Lindsay Ezell.
Bottom center: The gymnastics team entertained the crowd with impressive flips and somersaults across the Gold Dome floor.
Bottom right: One of Nick Stallings's many impressive dunks.
All photos courtesy of Jennifer Majchrowicz.





Letter from the Editor: On D.C., rain, and big-time newspaper conventions

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Here's what we learned in D.C.: the rain can really suck.

Alright, maybe that's not all we learned, but the freezing rain definitely seemed to dominate our trip – a trip made possible thanks to the generosity of the Provost, Dr. Darrel Colson, and the Student Government Association. They paid our way from Shreveport to Washington, D.C. and back, as well as our conference fees. Layout Assistant Courtney Delaney, Copy Editor Rhagen Russell and I attended the National College Media Convention, where over 4,500 delegates from colleges and universities all over the country came to learn about the newest trends and themes in newspaper content and design. Poor Courtney became sick after all the trekking to and fro from metro stations and the hotel where the conference was held (walking in pouring rain for three days can do that to a person), but we still had a good time.

To cut accommodation costs and to have a newspaper reunion, we stayed with Centenary alumnus and former Editor-in-Chief Roxie Smith (2005-2006). Quite apart from reminiscing about 12-hour layout sessions, our gracious host treated us to an evening of Xanadu (if you don't know it, IMDb it, and prepare for glorious fun).

We absorbed quite a bit of information – we scrupulously took notes on our gorgeous (and free) notepads provided by news agencies around the country (it sounds so nerdy, but a clean and stylish notepad is pretty much the coolest thing ever for an aspiring reporter). Even though the notes later became a bit wet thanks to the dreary weather, we still have them. They include ideas on how to improve the design of the newspaper, from the front page to the horoscopes (which Courtney has already been working with in terms of redesign!), how to write more engaging headlines, how to cover all areas of the campus effectively, and most importantly, how to reach out to the readers.

We're going to be making some changes in the Conglomerate, some noticeable, some minute, and we want your feedback on all of it. Email us at paper@centenary.edu to let us know, for example, if the new font size works for you – for the technical-minded, we normally run a 12-point font, but after design guru Ron Johnson of Kansas State University told us the perfect size is 10.4, we decided to downgrade to 11-point. We might go for perfection, but we want to make sure it's readable – for our readers – first.

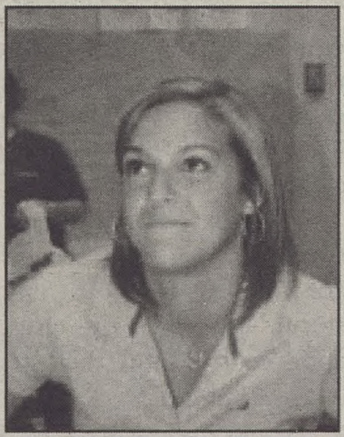
Conventions like this, put on by the Associated Collegiate Press, certainly have an intimidation factor. The exchange table, where all attendees put copies of their own newspaper, included the likes of the New York University and University of Texas at Austin papers: full-color broadsheets with a circulation of 15,000-30,000. Daily! The Conglomerate can't hope to compete with the size of those staffs and budgets, but we can still improve and work with what we have. That's what we plan on doing, box by box, page by page, until we truly feel we're delivering the best product possible. Remember, throughout that process, we want as much input as possible, whether positive or negative.

continued on page 3

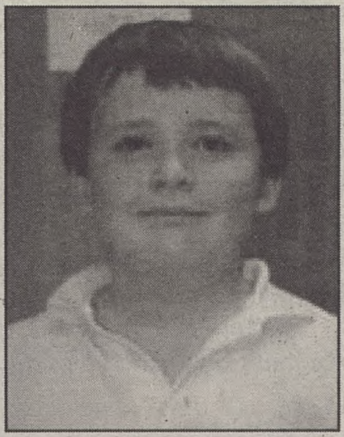
Question of the Week

WHAT IS THE STRANGEST HALLOWEEN TREAT YOU'VE RECEIVED?

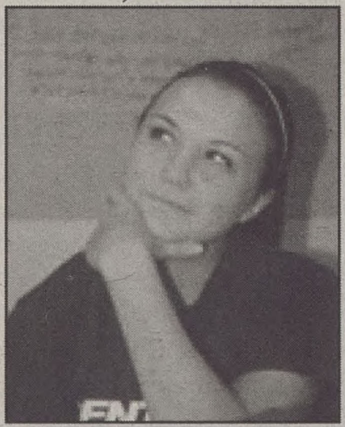
"A booger." -
Alysha Wallace,
Junior



"Chicken wings." -
Betsy Smith,
Junior

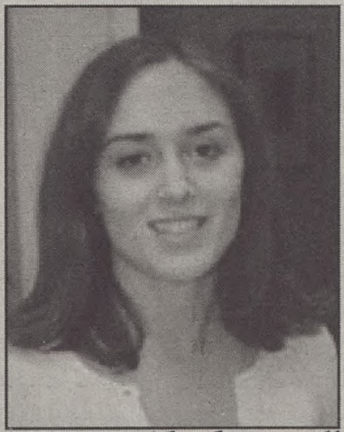


"A paddle ball." -
Brady Loflin,
Freshman



"Mardi Gras panties." -
Michael Anne Wheeler,
Junior

"A Bible." -
Kat Michiels,
Senior



"A singing skeleton."
- Nikki Mattson,
Senior

FEATURES

Voting on an additional mascot will take place this month

Dr. Robert Prickett, Mascot
Commission, Faculty Co-Chair

Countless words have been written, spoken, and rumored about Centenary's mascot (or lack thereof). To allay some of the rumors and concerns, we offer this piece in an attempt to answer questions and concerns that may or may not be founded.

First, the history. In recent years, Centenary has examined the role and impact of the mascot through informal SGA student/faculty forums, alumni surveys and questionnaires, the Campus Diversity Climate Assessment and so on. At the end of the last school year, a Mascot Inquiry Committee was initially formed by SGA to discuss this ongoing issue. The committee was made up of a diverse body of students, faculty, and staff representing many facets of campus life. At the beginning of this academic year, the committee was enlarged to include Marketing, Alumni, Athletics, and Admissions Departments. This group was then commissioned by the President to develop, analyze, and coordinate an inquiry into the mascot issue. This commission has been operating since September.

Second, the process. From the previously mentioned endeavors, the commission was given a list from students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members of approximately 30-40 suggested mascots to analyze, research, discuss, and oversee. Looking at such factors as perception of mascot idea, personality of mascot idea, impact of mascot idea, uniqueness of mascot idea, extension of campus identity, marketing of mascot idea, and so on, we have reviewed and reduced the initial list to five potential mascots. This proposed list will be voted upon (via online survey) in the upcoming weeks – planned voting to take place the week of November 12th – by current students, faculty, staff, administration, and alumni. We also will invite a few top prospective students (as identified by Admissions) to join in the voting. From this initial voting, if no clear "winner" is chosen, a follow-up run-off voting will occur in the same fashion. The results will then be presented to the President as a final recommendation. Ultimately, the current plan is to unveil the new mascot during Homecoming festivities in February.

Third, the rationale. The search is for a new visible mascot; not to replace the nickname. Students have clearly voiced a desire for a "fun" mascot, one that can be "dressed and entertain" during sports and campus events. The work of the commission is to assist in recommending an additional mascot – rather than replacing – the "Gent." As it most recently was depicted, the "Gent" was a Southern gentleman bearing the likeness of a male plantation owner. At the very least, this image is not inclusive of Centenary's female, African-American, Asian-American, or international students, faculty, staff, and alumni. There are concerns that the "Gent" does not represent our entire student/alumni/faculty/staff population and has the potential to offend a substantial population of both current and prospective students.

The addition of a new mascot will hopefully act as a unifying force across campus, not only in gender and ethnicity, but also among groups such as athletes, music students, and Greeks. While conscious of the need to preserve tradition, the commission is aware of the desire of our community members to have a mascot that past, present, and future Centenary students/faculty/staff can rally around and support for the 21st century Centenary College of Louisiana experience.

Letter from the Editor, cont. from page 2

I can promise you I get almost as excited about a negative response as I do about a positive one, because either way, it means someone is reading the paper and cares enough to comment. With as much work as we put into The Conglomerate on a weekly basis (and the kinds of weather we trudge through in order to learn how to improve it…), that's always a cause for celebration.

P.S. We also had the privilege of listening to Sam Feist, CNN's political director, give a keynote address at the convention. He was pretty inspiring, even if I don't agree with his disapproval of "The Daily Show" - it is real news! They just put a very obviously biased spin on it! They still do a better job of exposing hypocrisy in politics than many major media outlets, though...

If you want a more detailed idea of what we did and who we saw, visit www.studentpress.org/acp.

For a few pictures from our trip to D.C., see page 9, which features Sam Feist and the Washington Monument on the National Mall.

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AMERICAN POLITICS

First baby boomer applies for Social Security benefits

Riley Adams
Staff Writer

While Warren Buffet hardly seems to be slipping away into retirement at the age of 77, Kathleen Casey-Kirschling filed for Social Security benefits as the first baby boomer of a generation.

As reported by Reuters, in the next 20 years it is expected that over 80 million baby boomer retirees will draw on Social Security and cause what has been dubbed the "silver tsunami" effect on the system.

Social Security Commissioner Michael Astrue said at a press conference with Casey-Kirschling, "We are already feeling enormous pressure from baby boomers being in their peak disability years and now we're preparing for so many of them to file for retirement."

The Social Security program's trustees said that by 2017, Social Security would be paying more in benefits than it receives in taxes and by 2041, the Social Security trust fund is projected to be drained.

Until the next president takes office in January of 2009, little is expected to happen due to President Bush's recent failed attempt to privatize Social Security.

According to National Public Radio, Kirschling was born just after midnight on January 1, 1946, making her America's first baby boomer to retire. She will enroll online at a public ceremony and receive her first check in February of 2008.

Stephen Colbert runs for President in home state of South Carolina

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Stephen Colbert, most famous for his right-wing pundit TV character on "The Colbert Report" and his former work as correspondent for "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," is running for president.

Comedy Central announced a few weeks ago that he will be running for president in his home state of South Carolina, both as a Republican and a Democrat. Since then, however, that stance has changed to just Democrat – the Republican fee of $35,000 to appear on the ballot was just too high. (According to CNN.com, Democrats require just $2,500 or a minimum of 3,000 signatures.)

Since the announcement, met with amusement by most and criticism by others (for making a mockery of the political process), Colbert's legion of fans – known as the Colbert Nation – have mobilized the social networking sites. The Facebook group "1,000,000 Strong for Stephen T. Colbert" grew in membership at exponential rates, soaring over a million and easily besting groups supporting presidential candidates like Barack Obama.

Colbert has already been visibly campaigning (or just garnering publicity) in South Carolina, speaking at a "Rock the Vote" event last Saturday and receiving a key to the city of Columbia from Mayor Bob Coble. The extra exposure of his newly released book doesn't hurt, either – "I Am America (And So Can You)" is currently sitting pretty at #1 on the New York Times Bestseller List, above memoirs from Eric Clapton and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

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Peace Corps recruiter visits Centenary campus

Sara Carpenter
Staff Writer

On Thursday, October 25, Erica Gannon, a Peace Corps recruiter, was in the SUB offering information to students interested in joining the Peace Corps. Travis Reece, a Centenary student going into the Peace Corps, was also there giving advice to fellow students.

The mission statement of the Peace Corps is "To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women. To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served. To help promote a better understanding ofotherpeoples on the part of Americans."

The Peace Corps has been around since March 1, 1961, and currently has 187,000 volunteers who serve in 139 countries. Peace Corps volunteers are diverse in their backgrounds and in the way they help.

Travis Reece commented, "Different talents are needed. You may think you have nothing to offer, but you have everything to offer. Any skill you have can be used." Travis will be teaching math, science, English, and tap.

There are opportunities to help in education and youth development, health and HIV/AIDS, agriculture, environment, business development, and information technology. There is definitely something for everyone.

Former volunteers can be anyone from senators to CEOs. Reed Hastings, the founder and CEO of Netflix, served in Swaziland from 1983-1985. Senator Christopher Dodd served in the Dominican Republic from 1966-1968. The Peace Corps community is a diverse one.

Volunteers serve for 27 months. Three of those months are spent training and the other 24 are actually on the job. While in the Peace Corps, volunteers are given a living allowance and provided with complete medical and dental care. The cost of transportation to and from the country of service is also provided.

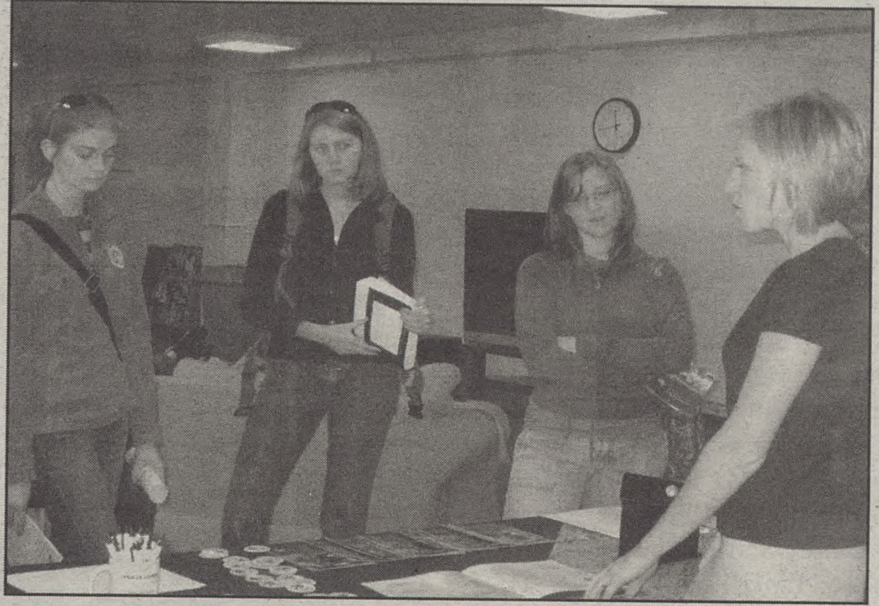
For most people, moving to another country where you do not speak the language is a very scary thing. The Peace Corps tries to alleviate this as much as possible. There is an office in each country, and staff members visit volunteers on site.

Safety of the volunteers is a number one priority. Gannon did not finish her stint in the Corps because of a coup in the country she was serving. The Corps made sure she was safe and got her out of the country just in case.

The application process should begin about a year prior to the date you would like to join. Volunteers can give a regional preference, but that does not guarantee they will serve there. When asked what advice she had for those thinking about joining, Gannon said, "Do your research. Call recruiters. Talk to volunteers and get the good, the bad, and the ugly."

Reece contributed, "Start early even if you're barely thinking about it. Apply anyway. You can always change your mind in the process."

For more information on the Peace Corps, visit the website at www.peacecorps.gov, call the regional recruitment office at 800-424-8580, or e-mail Erica Gannon, the regional recruiter, at egannon@peacecorps.gov.



left: Regional recruiter Erica Gannon and future Peace Corps volunteer Travis Reece talked to interested students last week.

above: Gannon speaks with Centenary students about serving in the Corps.

Photos by Mindy McKoin.

Send us your secrets!

In honor of the newly released Post Secret book A Lifetime of Secrets the Conglomerate will be printing secrets of Centenary students.

In order to particpate take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box number 786 or slip it under the Conlgomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.

Some tips....
Be brief - the fewer the words the better
Be legible - use big, clear, and bold lettering
Be creative - let the postcard be your canvas

Visit www.postsecret.com for inspiration

Meet Claire Auzanne, a business student from France

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

Conglomerate: Could you introduce yourself to our readers?

Claire: My name is Claire and I come from France. My major is international business.

Congo: Are you here for a year or a semester?

Claire: I'm here for one semester, but I hope to find an internship in the U.S. afterward. If not in the U.S., then maybe in Hong Kong. My last choice would be the U.K, but I hope to stay in the United States. I plan to go to back to France in July.

Congo: Have you been to the United States before?

Claire: No, it's my first time.

Congo: Are there any customs in France that you were really surprised not to have found in the United States?

Claire: Yes! In France, I kiss all my friends every day just to say "hi." I don't have the habit to hug, though. In France, a hug is something more personal; it's something you do when you're really close to someone. But you kiss everybody even if you don't know them that well, so that is really different.

Congo: What has your Centenary experience been like?

Claire: It's been a really good experience because it's totally different than in France. I can't really compare between France and the U.S. because they're too different. For example, the campus system, student life, relations between people, courses – they're all quite different.

Congo: Which educational system do you like better?

Claire: I can't say that I prefer one because there are advantages and disadvantages to each. And I don't know enough of the American system to make a judgment.

Congo: So, what made you choose Centenary?

Claire: The choice was kind of made for me. It depended on my grades in France. For example, I chose to come to the U.S. – that was my first choice – but not to Centenary in particular. I chose the U.S. because it is the most important country for trade, which is really important to me, and because I really wanted to improve my English. Also, I wanted to go to another continent.

Congo: Do you travel a lot while in Europe?

Claire: My uncle has a company in Madrid and that's why he's there – he's married to a Spanish woman, and my cousins are Spanish, too. I don't travel a lot, but my Spanish family often visits me in France. Spain is my favorite country to travel in Europe. I have a lot of friends there and I often go there for a large part of the summer. It's expensive, so it's better to travel there for a longer period of time.

Congo: What has been your greatest challenge at Centenary?

Claire: When you're in another country, everything is a challenge... But maybe being understood well.

Congo: What do you like the most about Centenary?

Claire: The global environment and the community here. Everybody is very involved in what they do: sports, fraternities, associations - like the Conglomerate. People are really friendly, too.

Congo: What surprised you the most about the United States and/or Centenary?

Claire: They're really strict about alcohol and ages here. If you're under 21, the laws are very strict and the police are everywhere. I'm really surprised! I can't believe that you have to show your ID everywhere. The legal drinking age in France, I think, is 16, but nobody cares. I've never shown my ID to buy anything. But people don't really abuse that. People in France don't drink more than in the U.S, so it shows that the rules and the strictness aren't that good.

Congo: What are some of your hobbies?

Claire: I like to play the piano, travel, swim, and play water polo. I also love cinema and art.

Congo: What type of art is your favorite?

Claire: Contemporary art. My favorite artist is Antonio Segui.

Congo: What's your favorite type of food?

Claire: Definitely French food, of course! My favorite dish? Maybe crepes, otherwise snails cooked with butter and garlic, with herbs. And with good wine! It's the perfect dish.

Congo: If someone made a movie about your life, who would play you and your hot boyfriend?

Claire: To play me, French actress Marion Cotillard. And my boyfriend? It's hard because there are so many attractive guys... It would be a mixture. First of all, Jude Law because he's classy and chic. And then Mike Delfino from "Desperate Housewives" because he's sexy. Then Rafael Nadal, who's a tennis player, for his muscles. And then Romain Duris for his acting talent.

Congo: Lastly, is there anything you want to say to our readers?

Claire: I guess if you want to know more about me, just ask me! It's different to read an interview and hide behind the paper, but if you really want to get to know me, you need to talk to me.

Photo by Mindy McKoin.

Advice from Allison: Do not double-book dates

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

The opinions and ideas expressed by this article do not in any way reflect those of Centenary College, the Conglomerate, or the writer herself. In fact, these ideas probably don't express any intelligently informed opinions anyway.

Dear Allison,

I am in the middle of my third semester at Centenary College. I still have no idea what I want to do with my life after college. What should I do to find my calling in life?

-Undecided Undergrad

Dear Undecided,

No one ever really knows what they really want to do. Do you find that you are really talented in music? Do you find biology fascinating? Is bowling your forte? Find what you're good at and what you enjoy doing most. In fact, if you really enjoy your undergraduate life, you can just keep working on that degree for the next ten years.

Dear Allison,

There are two guys that I am really interested in but I don't know how to choose between the two. I like them both equally but for different reasons. How do I make the best choice?

-Doubtful Debbie

Dear Doubtful,

I think you should go on dates with both of these dashing young gentlemen. Getting to know them better individually will help you decide which is better suited for your lifestyle. If you like to shop, take them shopping. If you like foreign films, take them to a French film festival. Do you enjoy protesting with your pro-animal rights friends? Grab your date a "Fur Is Death" sign and count him in. Find which of these guys can adapt to your life more easily. Be sure that you don't double book a date, however. That could be really embarrassing.

SWACURH Conference to be held at Centenary next weekend

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

From November 8-11, Centenary College will play host to the Southwest Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls annual conference.

For those who do not know, the Southwest Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls, or SWACURH, is a regional division of the National Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH). This division consists of schools like the University of Texas, Texas A&M, Centenary College, Louisiana State University, Texas Tech, University of Arkansas, Tulane, and many others.

SWACURH is a student-run organization with the purpose of setting up relations with other colleges around the region and country and sharing ideas, leadership tactics, programming ideas, and anything else that can help make the residence halls on each campus more welcoming and enjoyable for all residents.

"Centenary is the smallest school in the conference and it is a really big deal to host the conference. We are really proud of it," said SWACURH co-chair Maggie Mahoney.

Every fall, a conference is held in a host school, with Centenary being the host school for this year. The conference is one of three opportunities for the colleges to meet during the year. The other two are No-Frills, a business conference held in January, and the NACURH conference, which is held in May or June.

It is expected that Centenary will host 342 delegates from 23 schools during the weekend of the conference. However, the other schools will not be staying on campus, so do not worry about having to host any visiting students in your rooms.

That means that the college will be containing an influx of people for the weekend. So don't be alarmed when you see groups of people wearing non-Centenary gear and screaming goofy spirit chants across the campus. It is only part of the SWACURH experience.

The conference is set to start on Thursday night, with activities taking place in Brown Chapel, Jones-Rice Field, the Fitness Center, Kilpatrick Auditorium, and the Centenary Room, as well as other locations around campus.

The next morning, sessions for the conference will be occurring across the campus in unused classrooms. Do not worry, as all sessions have been designed to coincide with classes and the delegates will be told not to disrupt classes or to make lots of noise within a certain radius of each building.

On Friday night, there will be the Roll Call, which is essentially the big Pep Rally-like event for each school to present cheers, skits, etc. to prove that they have the most school spirit out of all the schools in the region. Stop by and check out the excitement when it happens at 7:00 in the Shell.

Saturday will consist of more events happening in various locations across the campus. This will be the last day that the other schools will be on campus. On Sunday, the other schools will leave for home.

All events have been scheduled to provide the least amount of inconvenience to both students at Centenary as well as visitors to the campus. However, you might have to wait longer in the lines in the Caf, though enough has been done to alleviate traffic in the lines.

If possible, try to welcome the visitors to the campus and make their stay here as enjoyable as it can be.

Human Geography class saving up for water buffalos

Ryan Thacker
Staff Writer

In some countries around the world, the average family eats on only $2.00 a day. That's less than the cost of a drink and a bag of chips at Randle's. The students of Dr. Bieler's Human Geography class want to do something to help. We want the Centenary community to be aware that there are families around the world that are not as fortunate as we are.

We are teaming up with Heifer Project International to send water buffalos to Ghana, Guatemala, Romania, Rwanda, Brazil, Thailand, and Indonesia. Heifer also has goats, sheep, llamas, heifers, and many other animals available. Heifer Project teaches the families proper animal management as well as agricultural techniques. Once the families have learned the tricks of the trade, they are able to grow produce for their own nutritional needs, or to sell for money to buy other necessities.

From November 5-16, there will be cash bowls placed in the SUB as well as other places around campus. The windows in the Caf will also have information on the countries we are trying to help. By showing your support of a few dollars, we can help ensure these families have enough to eat.

Heifer International: Ending Hunger, Caring for the Earth

For more information on Heifer International visit www.heifer.org.

May Module 2008

As of Friday, October 26
These Modules have filled:
Nicaragua - 1 on the waitlist
Spain - 3 on the waitlist
Urban Education - 10 on waitlist
India - no one on waitlist
Gay Politics - no one on waitlist

Modules still open: 50 open spots left
Mississippi Delta - 3 spots left
Hawaii - 9 spots left
Ecuador - 5 spots left
Paris - 4 spots left
Germany - 3 spots left
China/Business - 16 spots left
China/Education - 10 spots left

These numbers may have changed since Friday, for more information contact Diane Tooke at the 2910 building.

Students camp out in the Student Union Building for coveted spots on the May Module roster.

KSCL DJs attend College Music convention in New York City

Jon Schleuss
Staff Writer

KSCL traveled to New York City for the College Music Journal Music Marathon from October 17 to 21. It's the best place to hear about current trends from music industry executives. It's a great way to find emerging artists. It's a great place for experiencing this never-dying force that is radio. It was a great experience for the students, KSCL, and Centenary. A personal thanks is needed to SGA for making this all possible.

The College Music Journal, CMJ for short, is a charting agency for college, underground, high school, and independent radio stations. The annual festival connects radio staff, music industry professionals, and artists in one city for five days.

KSCL charts records from weekly Top200, World Beat, Loud Rock, and Electronica music through the CMJ service. And we talk to the promoters, record companies, and even the artists of the records we chart each week. The CMJ Music Marathon is the best place to meet all of the industry professionals and amateurs with innovative ideas. We stole some of those ideas.

The majority of talk was about change, because whether you're on the boat or not, the music industry is changing. CD sales are falling faster than digital sales can climb and piracy is at an all-time high. But college radio stations don't quite have the money to make the switch.

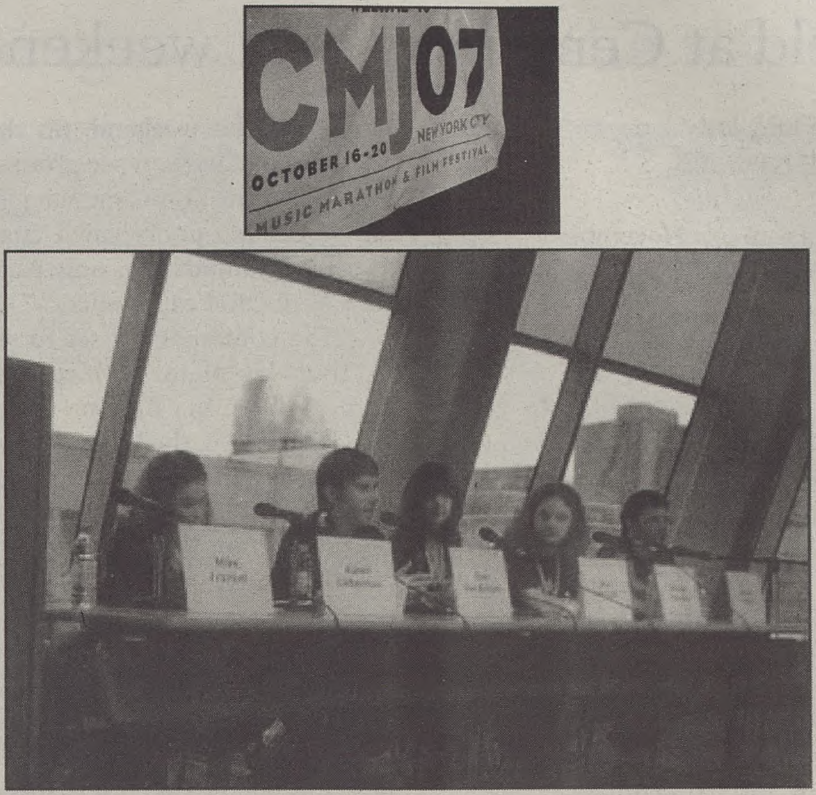
CMJ 2007 could have effectively been renamed, "Let's talk about digital technologies, give you the tools and advice, and we'll cross our fingers." We learned tons for our future growth. Put up a website that streams. Take digital downloads into the booth. Get out a podcast. Take notes in Google. Put playlists online. And give listeners the opportunity to give you feedback (they are your number one supporters!). So, that's what we're starting.

I want to get internet streaming up and running for next year. Wouldn't Admissions eat that up? Students bring computers to college, not too many radios. We're working on how to make the booth more digital. We just took out one turntable, we moved our computer closer to the board, and we are getting emails everyday with the new music only available digitally. It's good for distribution, timing, and the environment. It just costs money.

We've already got a podcast accessible in iTunes. Just search for "kscl" in the bar. You'll find exclusives that we've collected and a lot of potential for growth. I urge students, faculty, and staff to contact me with ideas or projects they would like to see on our podcast. We want to create a place for exclusive audio stories that involve both Shreveport and Centenary.

We're collaborating as a staff using Google Calendar and Google Docs, much in the same way that the Web Director and RAs are already doing. We're doing it with our internal contacts, manuals, and notes. And we just began taking feedback through widgets on our blog at kscl.blogspot.com. We are also working out the kinks for getting every song that's aired onto our website.

Again, the majority of panels at CMJ were about becoming a digital service and growing as a station in new and innovative ways. KSCL is situated to benefit the college and the community in so many ways. We have a great opportunity, as students, to connect with our community in a very powerful way. The music industry is changing. KSCL is changing. Are you on the bandwagon?

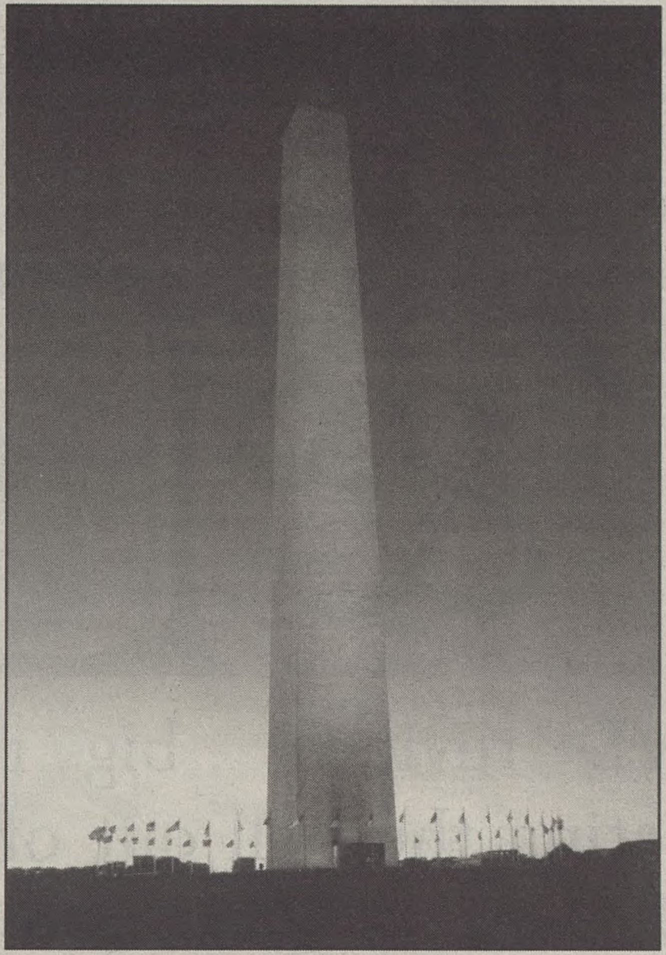


Above: Students speak on a panel at the College Music Journal Marathon. Photos contributed by Jon Schleuss.

THE CONGLOMERATE
THANKS
THE PROVOST,
DR. DARREL COLSON
AND
SGA
FOR FUNDING
OUR TRIP TO THE
NATIONAL COLLEGE
MEDIA CONVENTION IN
WASHINGTON, D.C.
WE APPRECIATE IT!

The Conglomerate goes to Washington

Below: Sam Feist, political director of CNN, delivers a keynote address to attendees at the National College Media Convention. Photo by Versha Sharma.
Right: The Washington Monument, the most visible landmark on the National Mall. Really looks better in color (sunset!). Photo by Rhagen Russell.



Outreach and CAB will sponsor the third annual Safe Sex Week next week!

Safe Sex Week

Sunday: Knocked Up Movie -- Want to see what happens when you don't use protection? It might not sound like a fun situtation in real life, but the movie turns a bad situation into a hilarious one. Come watch Knocked Up and eat free food! James Lobby, 8pm.

Monday: Sex Carnivale -- come play games, win prizes, get your sexual fortune read, and support your organizations (which are hosting game booths!). Jackson Hall, first floor, 6:30pm-8:30pm.

Tuesday: CAB Coffeehouse & the Banana Split party -- Come listen to music and get yourself a free banana split! Kilpatrick, Time TBA

A&E

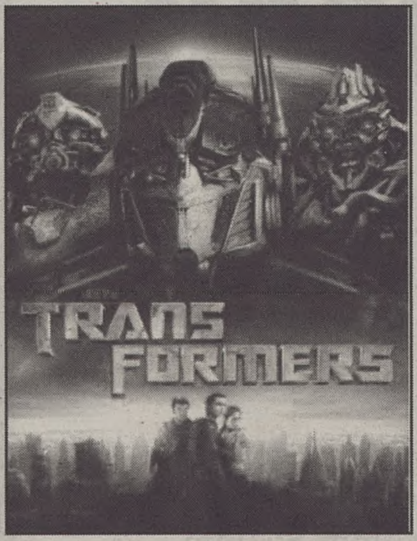
DVD review: big robots beating the hell out of each other can be great visual fun

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Big robots beating the hell out of each other. If that sentence sounds stupid or turns you off completely, then "Transformers" might not be the movie for you. If it doesn't, then the good news is that the movie has finally made it to DVD and is yours to own.

I personally loved the movie. It was a lot of fun and worth seeing on the big screen. For those who managed to miss it on the theatrical run, the movie is about a boy named Sam Witwicky (Shia LeBeouf), who unwittingly holds the key to the location of a cube called the All-Spark, which gives life to inanimate objects. The All-Spark is a device from the planet Cybertron, which is home to robots that transform into other objects, like cars.

On the planet, there are two factions, the evil Decepticons and the benevolent Autobots. They fight each other for the cube and find their way to Earth and eventually Sam. From there on out, it is big robot beatdowns like you have never seen before.



TRANSFORMERS

The movie is a lot of fun. It has some legitimately funny moments (i.e. not unintentionally funny). It has insane amounts of action. The last 30-40 minutes of the movie are one long robot battle.

However, the movie also has some problems. The script is weak, and plot holes and dumb moments abound. Many of the characters (robot or human), save for one or two, have very little character development. It is fairly long at 143 minutes. Plus, the movie also suffers some from SCS (shaky-cam syndrome). There are times when it is very hard to make out the battle scenes.

For those of you who like a little dumb with your action and the idea of watching beautifully-rendered battling robots, this is the movie for you. But is the actual DVD any good?

If you buy the special two-disc edition, then yes. There are lots of special features on the disc (and a geeky cool transforming case if you buy it at Target). The first disc contains the movie, which looks damn good and sounds even better. This movie is the reason to buy surround sound and a big-screen TV. It also contains a commentary by director Michael Bay, who has some interesting things to say about the movie.

The second disc is loaded with documentary extras, divided into three sections. The first section, titled "Our World," is about the human characters and the practical stunts behind the movie. The second section, "Their War," is about the creation of the transformers themselves, from the looks and the voices to the work it took to bring them to the silver screen. The last section is titled "More Than Meets the Eye," and is any extra material not covered in the previous featurettes.

Overall, the quality of the features is pretty good, and they give you a good idea of the size of the project and time and effort put into making the film.

Basically, if you are a fan of the movie, then you owe it to yourself to pick up this special edition DVD. It is very well-made and definitely the best version of the movie on the market, outside of HD-DVD.

Film industry local news

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

The MTV pilot "Cheerleader Camp" is scheduled to shoot in Shreveport beginning next week. On November 5, the show will film for one week, and BAM Casting Louisiana is currently looking for extras who were or are real cheerleaders, male or female, ages 18 and up. For more information, visit www.bamcastingla.com.

A few movies that filmed in Shreveport now have announced release dates. As previously stated, Stephen King's "The Mist" will be released on November 21. The trailer can now be viewed online. The majority of the film was shot inside StageWorks Louisiana, the soundstage/studio in downtown Shreveport. According to the Internet Movie Database (www.imdb.com), "The Mist" concerns "a freak storm [that] unleashes a species of blood-thirsty creatures on a small town, where a small band of citizens hole up in a supermarket and fight for their lives."

"The Great Debaters," featuring Denzel Washington and Forest Whitaker, is slated for release on December 25. The movie was filmed in Mansfield this summer and the Weinstein Company is hoping to generate Oscar buzz. "The Great Debaters" is "a drama based on the true story of Melvin B. Tolson, a professor at Wiley College, Texas. In 1935, he inspired students to form the school's first debate team, which went on to challenge Harvard in the national championship" (imdb.com).

"Mad Money," featuring Diane Keaton, Katie Holmes, and Queen Latifah, will be released on January 18, 2008. According to imdb.com, the movie is about "three female employees of the Federal Reserve [who] plot to steal money that is about to be destroyed."

CD reviews:

THE BEST OF CURRENT RAP, HIP-HOP, R & B

all by Samantha Green, Staff Writer

Hurricane Chris,
"51/50 Ratchet"

It's not every day that a local gets a record deal, nor is it often that a local is on the BET Hip Hop Awards performing. Hurricane Chris broke those norms and with his debut album, "51/50 Ratchet," he shows that he is a true rapper and not a gimmick who has an album because of his hit single, "A Bay Bay."

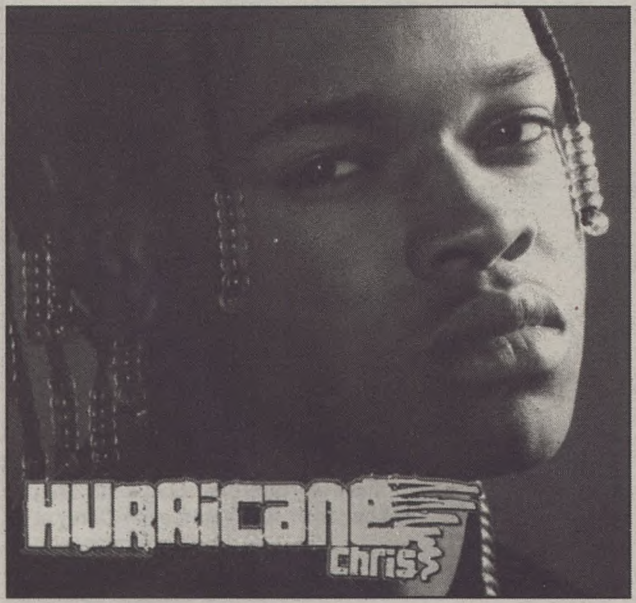
"51/50 Ratchet" is a great album with good beats and lyrics to match. He has songs that fit into the gangster rap genre, like "New Fashion," "Do Something," and "Bang." Songs like "Touch Me" and "Playas Rock" are clearly for his female fans.

Songs like "Doin' My Thang," "Beat in My Trunk," and "Walk Like That" are club bangers. Hurricane Chris shows his sensitive side on "Momma," a song dedicated to his mother.

There are limited guest appearances on the album, the most being on the "A Bay Bay" Ratchet Remix, which features The Game, Lil Boosie, E-40, Angie Locc, and Jadakiss. In addition to this song there are appearances by Nicole Wray, Big Poppa, Hollyhood Bay Bay (the inspiration for "A Bay Bay"), and Boxie.

With "51/50 Ratchet," Hurricane Chris breaks the norm. He actually has a good album and didn't release only the good songs on his album.

"A Bay Bay" and "The Hand Clap" are good songs, but Hurricane Chris did not fall victim to hit singles. "51/50 Ratchet" is an album that I recommend to people who like rap music.



Chrisette Michele,
"I Am"

chrisette
michele
I AM

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Chrisette Michele's album "I Am" is brilliantly titled and indicative of the songstress. She has a great and powerful voice. She is a modern version of classic soul singers. She is a great mix of neo soul and R&B. Chrisette Michele is the future.

Chrisette Michele's voice is a mixture of Chaka Khan and Jill Scott. That is a wonderful and unique combination. Her first single, "If I Have My Way," is a love song, with a high note that shows her voice is powerful enough to be more than a chorus on Jay-Z's "Lost Ones." With the songs "Like a Dream," "Mr. Radio," and "Is This the Way Love Feels," Michelle sings laid-back songs about a man.

With every song, Michele tells a story. She keeps listeners' attention because they want to know how the story plays out. All of Chrisette Michele's songs are soothing. Even her up-tempo songs like "Be OK," featuring Will.I.Am, are relaxing.

With "I Am," Chrisette Michele delivers an album that calms the listener. If you are stressed out or hyped about a test, Chrisette Michele's album will relax you. If you want to hear a great love song told by someone who sounds wonderful and as if they are in love, "I Am" is the album for you. Highly recommended.

Kelly Rowland,
"Ms. Kelly"

With her sophomore album, "Ms. Kelly," Kelly Rowland shows that she is more than Beyoncé's sidekick. With a good balance of up-tempo and mellow songs, "Ms. Kelly" is a wonderful album that can be listened to when going through any emotion.

The album starts with her first single, "Like This," featuring Eve. The song is up-tempo and perfectly segues into "Comeback." Her second single, "Ghetto," featuring Snoop Dogg, is the third song and the first slow song on the album. Her collaborations with both rappers are good, but it is Rowland's collaboration with R&B singer Tank on "The Show" that makes that song the best on the album.

Kelly Rowland gets very personal on "Still in Love with My Ex," which some think is an explanation of her broken engagement to Dallas Cowboy Roy Williams. However, with the songs "Love" and "Better Without You," Rowland clearly points the finger at the man.

"This is Love" is the final song on the album and it is the perfect ending. After songs about finding love, losing love, placing the blame on the other person, and finally looking within, "This is Love" defines love in its simplest form.

"Ms. Kelly" is an album that shows who Kelly Rowland is now. Gone is the 16-year-old girl we first met and here is the 26-year-old woman we should listen to. "Ms. Kelly" is a wonderful album that can be listened to at any time.

Ms.
Kelly
KELLY ROWLAND
Kelly Rowland

Jonathan Coulton, self-proclaimed internet superstar, merits attention

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

If you haven't heard of Jonathan Coulton yet, I pity you. I pity you and your Coulton-less existence. But I also love you, which is why I want to enlighten you in the way of the mighty Jonathan Coulton.

Let's start with the basics. Jonathan Coulton is a singer-songwriter and musician with a huge fan following that is largely Internet-based. His lyrics are always witty, sometimes weird, and more often than not, geeky.

You've just got to love a guy who sings about mad scientists, computer programmers and DNA.

His music ranges from soft and mellow – even folk – tunes, to upbeat rock themes that will be stuck in your head for much longer than you will want to admit.

Coulton probably falls somewhere between They Might Be Giants and Stephen Lynch on the music continuum: he leans more on the comedy side than TMBG, but tends to be a little tamer than Lynch. At the same time, however, he puts more effort into his music arrangements than Lynch does.

To get a better idea of just how talented this guy is, imagine this: not only does Coulton sing and write all of his songs, but he also plays the piano and the drums, or as he says on his Myspace, "all of it baby." I assume this also includes the harmonica, banjo, ukulele and accordion that he incorporates into some of his songs.

Are you swooning yet (and it's okay if you're a guy; I'm sure Mr. Coulton would be flattered)?

Coulton is perhaps best known for his zombie song, "Re: Your Brains," and his tribute to every disgruntled office worker, "Code Monkey," as well as his acoustic, mellow cover of Sir Mix-a-Lot's "Baby Got Back." Singing about gangs and hoes has never been so sexy.

A self-proclaimed "internet superstar," Coulton is also a big supporter of the Creative Commons, making all of his works free to listen to from his website. At least half of the songs are also free to download right off the same web page, and anyone is welcome to use Coulton's music in music videos, image collages, and whatever else you can think of.

Thing-a-Week One
Jonathan Coulton

The artist shares some of his favorite fan works on his personal homepage, but you can find dozens other fan-made videos with his music on YouTube.

Coulton's amazingness is further displayed in his monumental one-year undertaking called "Thing a Week." For a whole year, between September 16, 2005, and September 30, 2006, he challenged himself to write and record one song every week – which turned out to be a huge success.

His fan base skyrocketed, his online sales went up, and yes, the 52 songs that were borne out of this rather exhausting process, are of consistently good quality. It's during this period that Coulton wrote classics like "Code Monkey" and "Re: Your Brains," which remain some of his best known hits.

Personally, I love "The Future Soon," a song about unrequited love, robots, and a time in the future when things that makes us "weak and strange" will simply get "engineered away."

"I Feel Fantastic," on the other hand, is a satire of how much our society relies on medications to solve all our problems. It's "a day in the life of" someone addicted to sleeping pills, painkillers and anti-anxiety drugs, who claims, "All I know is my steak tastes better when I take my steak-tastes-better pill."

Coulton's rich repertoire also includes self-explanatory titles like "Creepy Doll," "Womb with a View," and "I Hate California."

All I'm going to add is that his cover of Destiny's Child's "Bills, Bills, Bills" is insanely cool, and that "First of May" is one of the catchiest dirty songs out there.

To sum up, Jonathan Coulton is a very talented and very funny guy who definitely made the right choice when he left his software writing job to pursue his love for music. You should check out his songs at www.jonathancoulton.com or add him as your Myspace friend at http://www.myspace.com/jonathancoulton.

Come on, let Coulton unleash your inner geek!

Take My Advice

Writing Lab	Magale Library 1A Sunday - Thursday	**8:00-10:00pm**
Math Lab	Wright Math Building Sunday - Thursday	**6:00-8:00pm**
Subject Labs	Magale Library 1A	**6:00-9:00pm**
Biology	Monday & Tuesday	
Economics	Monday & Tuesday	
French	Sunday & Monday	
German	Thursday	
History	Sunday & Wednesday	
Physics	Thursday	
Political Science	Sunday & Wednesday	
Psychology	Thursday	
Religious Studies	Monday & Tuesday	
Spanish	Wednesday	

Academic Resource Center for Students (arcs)

Learning and all ARCS services are free to all Centenary Students. If you have any questions contact Dr. Meg Webber or Dr. Kim VanHoosier-Carey at arcs@centenary.edu

www.centenary.edu/arcs

Movie review: "Across the Universe" is an innovative gem

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE
ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
IN THEATERS THIS FALL

"Nothing's gonna change my world..." (except maybe this movie).

The combination of Julie Taymor's artistic vision, 30 Beatles songs, and a story set in the 1960s seems almost too good to be true – for any Beatles fan, it certainly warrants enough to see a film. Taymor's "Across the Universe," a movie that works more as a series of vignettes set to the most loved of all Fab Four songs with psychedelic visual effects, is the kind of innovative gem you don't (can't, or won't) usually find in Tinseltown.

Miraculously, however, a month after the film's initial release, it came to Shreveport – and is still currently running in its third week. The trailers (check www.imdb.com or YouTube) were enough to pull me in, from when they first started running in movie theaters many moons ago – lots of color, lots of action, drama and protest (as any '60s era movie even loosely related to the Vietnam War should be), and lots of Beatles. The actual movie follows the same formula – but to call Taymor's work formulaic would be doing it a disservice.

"Across the Universe" is, above all, a love story between Jude from Liverpool (Jim Sturgess) and the all-American Lucy (Evan Rachel Wood) – yes, most main characters are named after Beatles songs. Jude travels from the U.K. to the U.S. to find his estranged father, finds a friend in Lucy's brother Max instead (Joe Anderson), and starts a bohemian life in New York with Max and a fascinating array of characters – the lonely stray Prudence, the throaty singer Sadie, and her brooding guitarist JoJo.

The film is not perfect. The director's ambition falls a little flat in some parts – a scene of the aforementioned Prudence wistfully singing "I Want to Hold Your Hand" to a fellow cheerleader unsettled me a bit, if only because it seemed too early on in the film for such dramatics and more like a music video than plot-related. Likewise, Eddie Izzard's colorful (and cracked out) take on "Being for the Benefit of Mr. Kite" will entertain some viewers and only make others wish they'd brought along their '60s-era drugs. (My personal take: it's Eddie Izzard! It works!)

Taymor, in many scenes, interprets Beatles lyrics quite literally and with great skill. She knows when to stop – when Bono, in an incredibly amusing cameo as one Dr. Robert, sings "I Am the Walrus," the screen certainly turns psychedelic and trippy, but the U2 frontman himself does not turn into an animal. In what is probably the best scene of the movie, however, Max and several other unfortunate young men drafted into the army to fight in Vietnam visibly carry the burden of the Statue of Liberty to the tune of "I Want You (She's So Heavy)." The film can be undeniably cheesy and melodramatic in parts, but scenes like this, showing young American men resorting to desperate attempts to avoid the draft and then being completely lost in the jungles of Vietnam, are what give the movie its artistic, historical, and cultural validity.

For all its confusing elements – again, the movie works more as a series of vignettes or even imaginative music videos than a conventional plot-driven film – the acting is of high caliber. Jim Sturgess plays Jude with inescapably adorable aplomb; many moviegoers will fall in love when he sings "I've Just Seen a Face" and many will feel his pain when he has a violent encounter with police at an anti-war protest. Evan Rachel Wood and Joe Anderson turn in similarly compelling performances as a typically dysfunctional American family torn apart by politics, career ambitions, and the war. Dana Fuchs, as Sadie, delivers one of the best musical moments of the movie with a screeching performance of "Helter Skelter."

Beatles fans will find it hard not to enjoy this movie, if only for the sheer pleasure of singing along with their favorite songs; visual art fans will definitely delight in the avant-garde special effects that Taymor disperses throughout the movie – and the average moviegoer should enjoy the dramatic, oftentimes humorous, and emotional ride. It may seem like a wild concept, not often found in Hollywood, but "Across the Universe" has something entertaining and gripping for everyone.

5th Annual Silent Auction benefitting the Make-a-Wish Foundation

Wish Upon A Star

Hosted by Chi Omega
Saturday, November 3
4-6 p.m.
Fitness Center

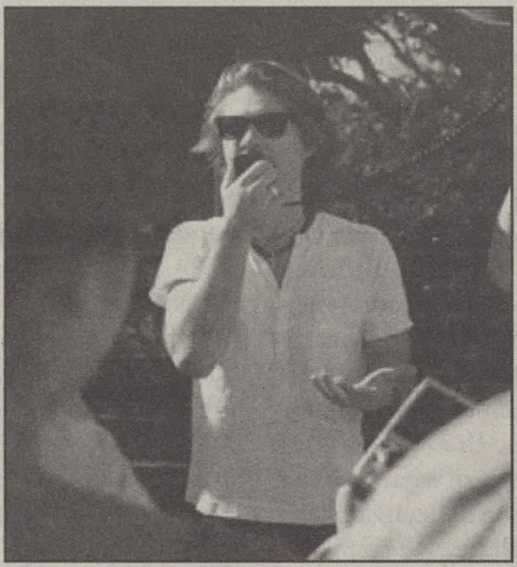
Tickets $5 at the door.
Food Provided.

Ten years after "MMMBop," Hanson is going strong (and doing charity along the way)

Rachel Powell
Staff Writer

It's been ten years since Hanson became a household name with the release of their pop single "MMMBop," and despite questions like "didn't they die?" and "are they still making music?" Isaac, Taylor, and Zac Hanson are still rocking out for fans across the United States and beyond.

Hanson disappeared from the music scene for a while thanks to major disputes with their record company: the label wanted catchy radio tunes, but Hanson wanted to make real music. After a long struggle, Hanson broke away from the label and started their own record company, 3CG Records. Since becoming an independent band, Hanson has put out two records and the brothers are making their way across the country on another tour.



The boys have grown up (all three are married, and Isaac and Taylor both have children), and so have their fans. At two concerts this past weekend, teeny-boppers were hard to spot, replaced by women (and men) in their twenties, thirties, and even forties. A crowd of all ages had no trouble singing along to Hanson's greatly matured music.

A long way from Hanson's poppy first album, "Middle of Nowhere," their music these days is catching the serious attention of music critics and constantly showing up on independent Top 40 charts. From rock and roll songs like "Blue Sky" to love ballads like "Go," Hanson stays true to the art of music. In a song titled "Been There Before," Hanson asks, "Does it move you?/Does it soothe you?/Does it fill your heart and soul/with the roots of rock and roll?" The boys have made it clear that music is what they love, and music is what they will keep making.

At both shows I attended, Hanson began with an energetic song called "Great Divide." The first song on their new CD, "The Walk," "Great Divide" was recorded with a children's choir in Africa, where Hanson's eyes were opened to the devastating poverty/AIDS crises. The band decided to take action - every dollar spent purchasing "Great Divide" on iTunes goes to Africa, as well as the proceeds from their red "Great Divide" t-shirt.

What's more, Hanson has teamed up with a company called TOMS Shoes. For every pair of shoes sold, TOMS donates a pair of shoes to a child in Africa (www.tomsshoes.com). Hanson set a goal of selling 50,000 pairs during this tour, allowing them to personally deliver 50,000 more pairs in Africa at the end of this year. Before each show on The Walk tour, Hanson walks a mile barefoot with their fans to raise awareness and reveal what a difference a pair of shoes can make. So far, they have walked over 25 miles.

Though they may miss the tremendous fame they once had, Hanson's becoming an independent band has been a blessing for the fans. Between playing more intimate venues like the House of Blues and being able to walk a mile with fans, in addition to having records released more quickly without the hassle of major record companies, Hanson is able to deliver good old rock and roll from the heart. Still don't believe me? Pick up a copy of their new CD, "The Walk" (available at www.hanson.net), and get ready to be surprised.

Above right: The Hanson brothers walk barefoot to raise awareness for less privileged children in Africa.

Left: Taylor Hanson talks to fans accompanying the band on the walk, explaining their chosen charity purpose.

Below: Hanson with their band members after a show.

All photos by Emily DeLatin.

"Antigone" takes the stage at Marjorie Lyons Playhouse

Jenni Loer
Theatre Correspondent

The year is 2024. Remnants of war drape the stage. The sturdy industrial set, with its sharp angles, protrudes into the seats, casting the audience as the Lords of Thebes.

Courtney Gaston, a senior, directs "Antigone" as post-World War III at Marjorie Lyons Playhouse for this season's student production. The towering steel set is designed by Nic Gadpaille, the costumes by sophomore Marissa Brown, the sound by sophomore Savannah Baggerly, and Steve Scarlato acts as technical director for the production.

In an unusual approach to directing Sophocles' Greek classic, the chorus takes on the lead role of the production. Karen Massey, Emily Mwakitawa, and Nate Wasson have been experimenting with movement and voice since early September, before the characters of the cast began rehearsals. Moving as embodiments of their own words and those of the other characters, the chorus is the force behind the actors, manipulating them almost as a puppet master would. Although the chorus acts as one entity, each member has a distinct voice and characteristics, making their role that much more powerful.

Contrasting the creeping chorus, the characters appear statuesque, holding faithfully to their convictions that provoke the action of the play. The inner turmoil of the title character, Antigone, played by Lorna S. Dopson, attacks the edict of the king. The struggle between divine and political power in the script is reflected in the tension of the cast. Adam Boyd breaks from his usual comedic role to play Creon. He is politically defensive as he attempts to justify his kingship and reiterate his power by holding steadfast to his edict with unyielding pride, despite the ominous warnings of prophecies. Jacob Bates plays the blind prophet Teiresias while Genevieve Fontenot takes on the messenger, both bearers of bad news, the brunt of which is received by Eurydice, played by Rachel Havird. Leah Tennyson as Ismene and Cameron Bradford as Haemon both practice familial disloyalty. Despite the cast's fearfulness of Creon's edict, each character eventually finds the strength to denounce his power, allowing the marriage of loyalty and justice to trump pride and tyranny.

To fully appreciate the dialogue-driven script, the story leading up to the tragedy should be familiar. The main action revolves around the deaths of two brothers of Antigone, one, Eteocles, who was loyal to Thebes, and the other, Polyneices, who fought in opposition, dying as a traitor despite his fight for his rightful place on the throne as the oldest son. Creon, uncle to Antigone, takes the throne as the closest of kin to the deceased royalty with his son Haemon, who is engaged to Antigone, next in line. Antigone's fate is sealed long before the drama commences by the unfortunate marriage of her parents, Oedipus and Jocasta, who unwittingly married each other as mother and son. The tragedy focuses on the conflict between the rule of the gods and that of the government and the moral dilemma encountered by the people who are affected by these contrasting laws. Fate plays an imperative role in the Greek tragedy as Antigone comes to grips with the consequences of her actions.

"Antigone" opens at Centenary College's Marjorie Lyons Playhouse on Thursday, November 8, at 8 p.m. There will be shows on November 9 and 10 at 8 p.m. and November 11 at 2 p.m., and a special preview performance on Wednesday, November 7, at 7 p.m. All performances are assigned seating, except for the preview performance, which is general seating. Tickets are free for Centenary students. Please call the Box Office at (318) 869-5242 for ticket reservations.

Movie review: "American Gangster" is a gift from the movie gods

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

I love a good gangster film. Whether they are based on true stories or not, I can usually find them very entertaining. The most recent entry into this genre is "American Gangster."

This movie is almost like a gift from the movie gods. We have Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe starring, along with lots of recognizable faces scattered throughout the film, and Ridley Scott directing (he made "Gladiator" for those who don't know, along with many other classic films). Plus, the script was written by Steve Zaillian, who wrote "Schindler's List." So there was no way this movie could be bad. The only question was if the movie is as good as promised. So is it?

To this reviewer, the answer is simply yes.

The movie is about Frank Lucas (Washington), who rises to power in Harlem during the 1960's and 70's after the leading crime boss there dies by selling drugs straight from Vietnam. His drugs are purer and cheaper than the ones being sold, so Frank almost instantly becomes the most powerful crime figure in New York.

However, Richie Roberts (Crowe) is one of the few honest cops left in New York (he once turned in a million dollars in unmarked cash). He is put in charge of a drug task force based in New Jersey and immediately starts to crack down on drugs in the city, which puts him on the trail of Frank. The movie, from there on out, is essentially the story of how Frank Lucas is brought down from power.

I am going to state the obvious. The two main performances are amazing. But I did not expect anything less from Crowe and Washington, as they are two of the best actors alive. However, the supporting cast offered some major surprises. Cuba Gooding Jr. finally makes a return to form in a very small role as Nicky Barnes, another Harlem crime boss. However, the real scene stealer is Josh Brolin, who plays an extremely nasty, corrupt cop who gives both Lucas and Roberts hell throughout the entire movie. He manages to steal the thunder from both Crowe and Washington on occasion, which is really saying something.

The movie is also incredibly beautiful, in a grimy and filthy kind of way. It feels like the filmmakers stepped back in time and started shooting on the spot. This movie is that convincing of the time period.

I can't really think of any problems with the movie itself, although I would be curious about what a director like Martin Scorsese would have done with this film. It is very similar to other gangster films, as it basically tells the same story, but it is still told very well.

The movie moves along at a good clip and never gets boring. The characters are all very interesting and well-developed. To be honest, the only complaint I had was that, even at two hours and thirty minutes, the movie still felt like it was too short and could have been longer. I don't say that often, but in this case it was true.

In a nutshell, "American Gangster" is definitely one of my favorite movies of this year. I would not be surprised to see it up for several awards this year. This is a must-see for fans of Washington, Crowe, Scott, or just good movies in general.

SPORTS

Dallas Mavericks season looks bright after initial heartbreak

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

The Dallas Mavericks lost badly. Really badly. As the Golden State Warriors came into the postseason to face NBA's best team in basketball, they had nothing to worry about when it came to losing. In five games, the Dallas Mavericks' prolific season had been crushed by a young Warrior squad.

League MVP Dirk Nowitzki, who struggled against Golden State in the postseason, led the Mavericks in scoring and rebounding during the regular season, while Jason Terry, who posted about 16 points per game, dished out a team-best 5.2 assists per game.

This year's fab five (Nowitzki, Terry, Howard, Harris, and Diop) will be more on its toes than ever, working to have another 50+-game winning record as the postseason approaches. Already this year, the Mavericks have pulled a decent 5-3 pre-season record, winning big games over rivals San Antonio and Sacramento.

Nowitzki needs to put the pains of his playoff performances this last season behind him, and get back to playing *his* game. The Mavericks were stunned against Golden State, but Coach Avery Johnson will get the team back on track and have them winning games consistently once again. As for the playoffs, a journey back to the finals is a possibility if the postseason matchups are right and the entire team is on its game, every game.

Friday, November 2nd

Tennis(M)
ULL Tournament
Lafayette, LA

Swimming (W)
at Hendrix Classic
Conway, AR

Swimming (M)
Hendrix College
Conway, AR

Soccer (W)
Western Illinois
Shreveport, LA

Volleyball
IPFW
Fort Wayne, IN

Bossier/Shreveport Mudbugs open the season with a few changes

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

This year's Mudbugs hockey team promises outstanding things. The departure of former captain and leading player (in both points and penalty minutes) Dan Wildfong was a big blow to the team's morale. Things were looking somewhat up for the Mudbugs at their opening game on Saturday, November 20, against the Texas Brahmas. What most of the fans were not expecting was who the Brahmas coach was: Dan Wildfong (yes, the Dan Wildfong mentioned before). Not only is he now coaching the Texas Brahmas, he has recruited Craig Menard (also a former Mudbug) and former Mudbug goalie David Cacciola to play for the team.

Losing some of the best and most hardcore players did not stop the Mudbugs from fighting hard in their first home game of the season, however. Before the first frame was even over, a pair of former Mudbugs, Blair Manning and Scott Sheppard, had a love connection to score the first point for the Brahmas only 33 seconds into the game. Only 2:06 later, Captain Chris Brassard, with assistance from Elias Godoy and Darryl Lloyd, made his first of three goals of the night. Coming out strong after the first frame, the Bugs were playing a decent game, with a 2-1 lead after Brassard scored yet another goal.

At the beginning of the second period, Texas struck back, tying the game at 6:33. Brassard countered the score with another goal nine minutes into the frame, making the score 3-2 40 minutes into the game.

Leading into the third period, the Brahmas brought their A-game and scored three consecutive goals to take a 5-3 lead over the Bugs. Ken Carroll was pulled from the net and replaced by John DeCaro to finish the game. The Mudbugs scored another goal, this one by Joe Ori, to make the score 5-4. Cacciola would not let any more shots in after that and sealed the win for Texas. The Texas Brahmas dominated the Mudbugs 5-4.

It was not all sad, however. Quade Lightbody got into the first home game fight of the season, no gloves and all, and was placed in the penalty box for a five minute major penalty for fighting.

Friday, November 2, the Bugs will play their second game with the Mississippi RiverKings before their first trip to Texas to play the Brahmas again on Saturday night. The Bugs are still looking for their first win of the season.

Jarboe Jabber: Swimmer nation takes over campus

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

You always see them. Sometimes they don't want to be seen. Other times, you can't help but stop and stare at what the hell they're doing.

The Centenary College swimmers are truly a blessing to this campus. I know what some of you kids are thinking: "Say what, Jarboe? Those swimmers are nuisances to this college and an embarrassment to us and everything we stand for. All they do is eat, swim, eat some more, and run around in Speedos on Jones-Rice Field for hours on end." To those of you who think that, I say horseradish! These 40 or so individuals that bear the name swimmer are not only good students, but the backbone of the spirit community. Ever been to a gymnastics tournament? The swimmers have. All of them. Painted from head to toe, rooting for pretty much any move any of them make. Made it out to a soccer game this season? The swimmers have. Lining the fence, screaming profanities at the players (especially girl soccer players that have strayed from the pack). They even have a crazy freshman that brings bagpipes to the game and plays them on every goal. Take that, Irish immigrants! Joined an organization recently? The swimmers have. Almost all the swimmers on campus are involved in some other organization outside of swimming that takes up more time of their busy schedule.

The Swimmer Nation is on the prowl. Slowly, day by day, more and more students on campus want to become more like the swimmers. From the way they act, make decisions, and even the clothes they choose not to wear. Wait! Is that Ben Crismon in a.... oh God. It begins.

Athlete of the Week: Soccer player talks about her senior season

Ryan Thacker
Staff Writer

Full Name: Breanne Marie Fletcher
Classification: Senior
Hometown: I'm a military brat, but I claim Schertz (San Antonio), TX
Major: Biology
Sport: Soccer
Position(s): Outside Midfield and Forward

Why did you choose to come to Centenary? The great biology department first interested me and then I couldn't turn down the opportunity to play Division One!

How long have you been playing? As long as I can remember. I think I was four.

What was the best part of this season? The team. I couldn't have asked for a better group of girls or coaches to be with as I finish my playing years. They definitely know how to work hard and have fun while doing it! I know they will all continue to succeed! Ladies, try not to miss me too much. Haha. But seriously, I'll never forget y'all!

How do you feel about your senior season coming to an end? It's bittersweet. I have really enjoyed playing and it has been a fun senior year, but I am also anxious to move forward with my life and career.

What has been your greatest accomplishment? Playing three sports in the same year (soccer, swimming, and softball) and going to conference for all three.

photo compliments of GoCentenary.com

What are your plans after graduation? I am attending graduate school (hopefully the University of Alberta) to receive my Master's in Public Health with a focus in Epidemiology, so I'll be involved in fun research to promote community health.

The Conglomerate presents: The life of a student athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

It's been a while now since I have written—two weeks, in fact. A lot has been going on since that time, though it is like a blur that I can't seem to escape. Now, since we are done playing and all, individual practices have begun and community service marks the beginning of the fall off-season for our softball team. We spent our first Monday of individuals volunteering our time at the Northwest Louisiana Food Bank. There, we helped by taking merchandise tags off of school uniforms and painted ceramic bowls that will be sold as a fundraiser for the food bank. Every year, our team volunteers our time to help a variety of non-profit organizations around the city to provide bonding between the Shreveport community and Centenary softball.

Over the past week or so, we have begun individual practices where we focus on particulars of the game. With that, we now have time to catch up on schoolwork, sleep, and other jobs that might come our way. It is much needed after such an intense and long fall season. Our softball life has slowed a bit—but we never stop.

Besides the school stuff, I just wanted to note that I have never been so excited to watch Major League Baseball. It's that time of the year when the best two teams are left to battle it out for a World Series title. Though, I must admit, I am a little biased as I sit in my room staring at Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox, hanging on my wall.

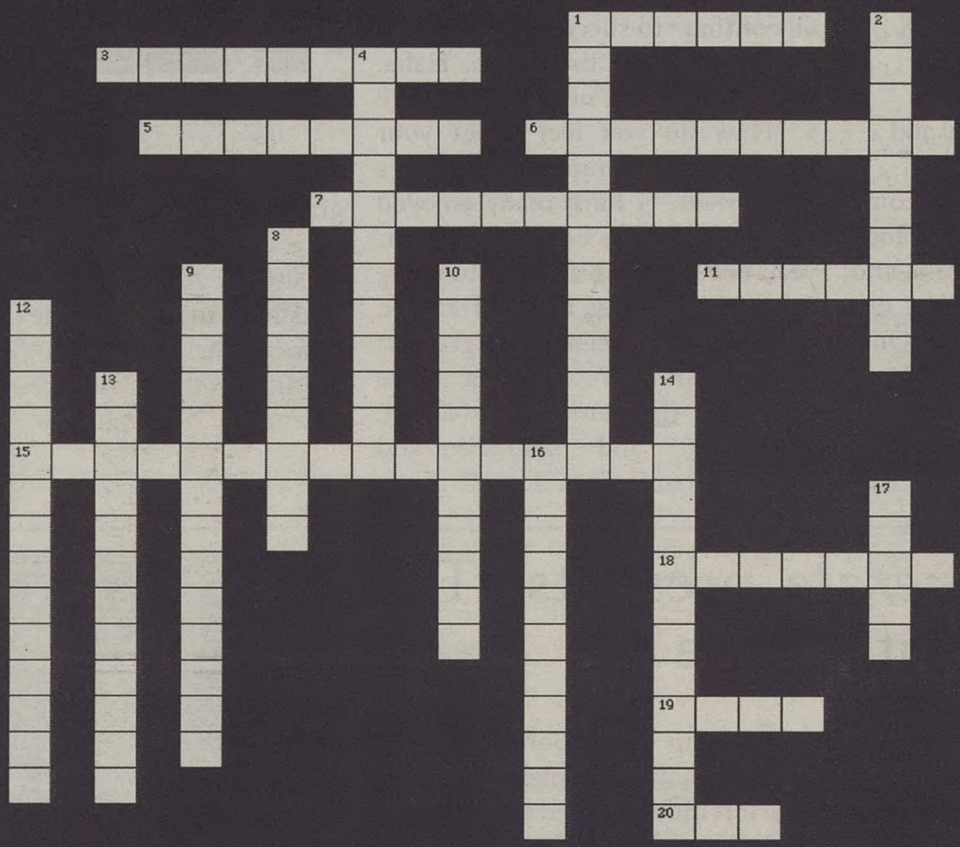
Every night, I have to beg my roommate, Ryan, to watch just a few hours of the last games of the season. I believe I have finally got her hooked. Red Sox vs. Rockies. It is hard to find people around here that actually like baseball, and with that, a team from Boston who sports the red and white and plays in the greatest ballpark in baseball. Their green monster wall and their wild fans simply provide the best atmosphere out there for any sports fan. Ever seen the movie Fever Pitch? If so, you know why I'm such a fan of the team.

photo compliments of GoCentenary.com

Whether they win it or not, a true fan is one who supports them until the very end. And I am that fan. You will see a blue hat and a red B on my head no matter what happens. Ortiz, Manny, Pedroia, Lowell, Varitek, Youkilis, Beckett, Papelbon, Drew, Crisp, Dice-K, Okajima, Schilling, Ellsbury, and Lugo. There is only one team in baseball with this talent - the Boston Red Sox.

"I come to play everyday." – David Ortiz, Boston Red Sox

CROSSWORD PUZZLE:
ON THE SILVER SCREEN



ACROSS
1. John _______; now starring in new movie "Martian Child"
3."The Nightmare Before _________"
5. "Across the _________"
6. "The Assasination of ______ ______ by the Coward Robert Ford"
7. Stars in the upcoming film "The Darjeeling Limited" with 10 Down and Jason Swartzmann.
11. _______ Redford
15. New Denzel Washington film
18. Philip ________ Hoffman
19. Number of "Saw" movies
20. Steve Carrell Film "______ in Real Life"

DOWN
1. Star of "Elizabeth: The Golden Age"
2. Director of new film "Why Did I Get Married" and earlier flick "Madea's Family Reunion"
4. Stars in "We Own the Nights with 9 Down
8. Vince Vaughn holiday film about St. Nick's brother
9. Stars in "We Own the Night" with 4 Down
10. Stars in the upcoming film "The Darjeeling Limited" with 7 Across and Jason Swartzmann.
12. New George Clooney flick
13. Comedy poking fun at sports movies
14. Comedian starring in "The Bee Movie"
16. Latest Amanda Bynes flick
17. "Good Luck ______"

Horoscopes

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) Its time, cut all your hair off, give your clothes to salvation army, and go on that long road trip you've been putting off for years.

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) The proper way to solve all of your problems at the moment is to buy volley ball and hide underneath your bed telling it all your secrets

Capricorn (12/22 –1/20) Stop pretending you really know what you're talking about.
Aquarius (1/21-2/19) Print off all the pictures from facebook of the guy/girl next to you in your first class monday; paste them on your notebook. The results are amazing, and it will make your Monday slightly more enjoyable.

Pisces (2/20-3/20) The key to your own happiness is making sure someone is more miserable than you.

Aries (3/21-4/20) I know you think that everyone cares about how much sleep you got last night, but they really just want to punch you in the face.

Taurus (4/21-5/21) I would keep a careful eye on your car this week.

Gemini (5/22-6/21) If life was really fair then I would be sleeping right now instead of writing your horoscope, get over it.

Cancer (6/22-7/23) Bitterness is your middle name, people would like you better if it was Sunshine or Free Pizza

Leo (7/24-8/23) Its time you realize that you have lost the privilege to pick your own theme song. Why? Because Venus and Mars are aligned in the shadow of Jupiter's third moon.

Virgo (8/24 –9/23) Call Mommy.

Libra (9/24-10/22) I doubt that what you think is true is really the truth unless you are skeptical of its being true, then I think its really true. Understand?

CENTENARY AREA CONCERT WIRE

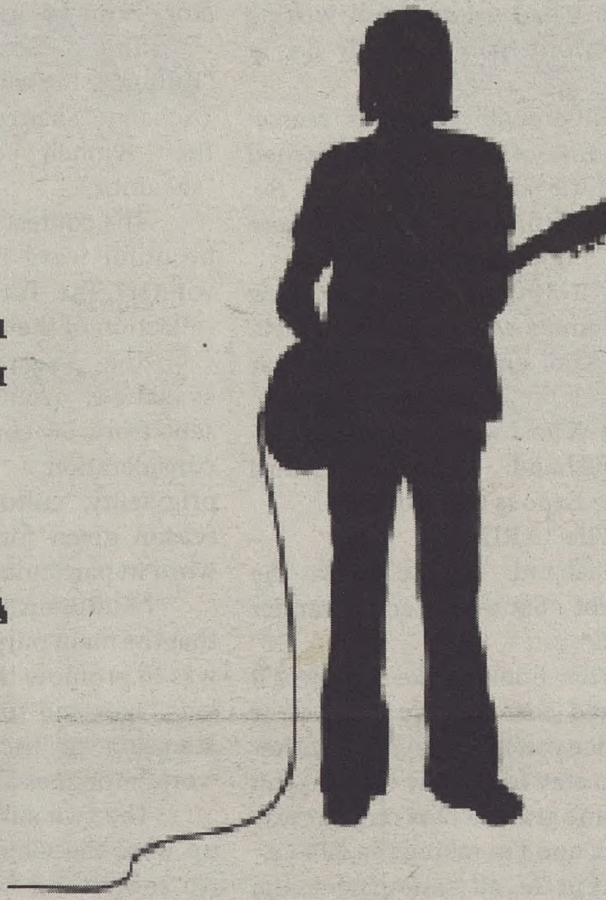
Nov. 2, Friday
Reckless Kelly
10 PM
Shooter's Sports Bar
Texarkana, TX
http://www.recklesskelly.com
http://www.shooterssportsbar.net/

Nov. 2, Friday
The Avett Brothers
Doors @ 8 PM, Show @ 9 PM
Granada Theater
Dallas, TX
$15 and up
http://www.last.fm/event/321806
http://www.theavettbrothers.com/

Nov. 3, Saturday
Houston Marchman
Bostock's Billiards and Bar
Stephenville, TX (a lil past fort worth)
http://www.houstonmarchman.com/
http://www.bostocks.com/

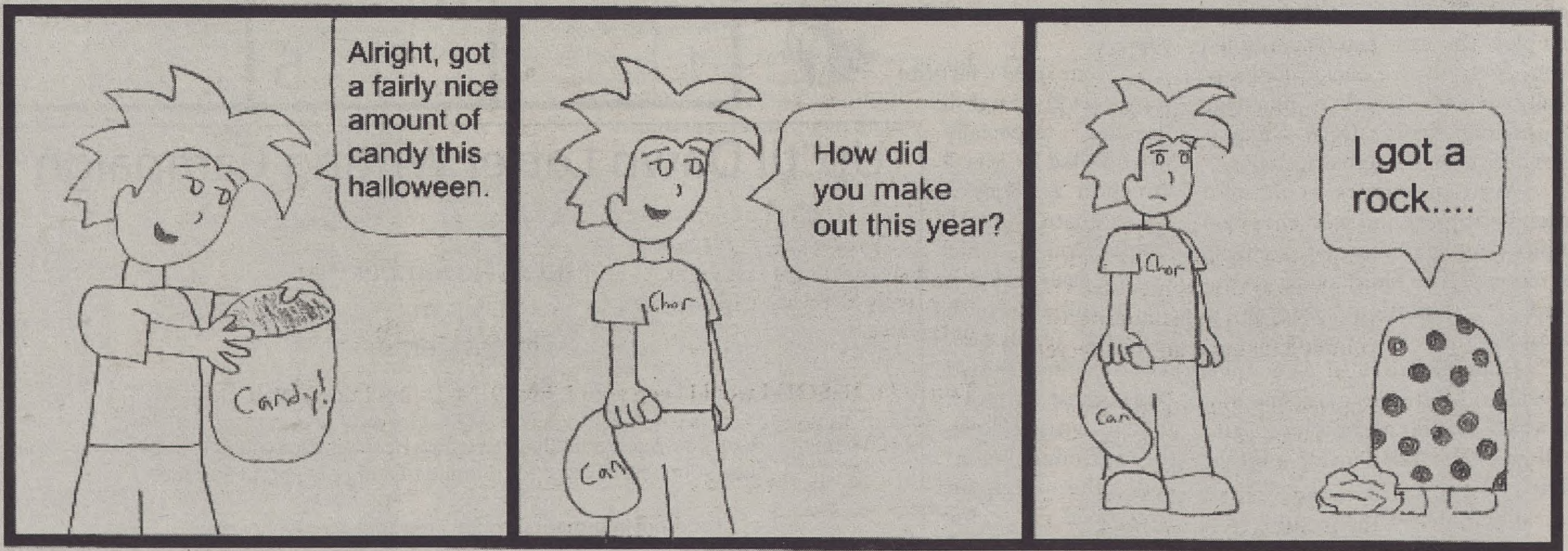
Nov. 8, Thursday
Regina Spektor
Doors @ 7 PM, Show @ 7:30
House of Blues
Dallas, TX
$25 and Up
http://www.reginaspektor.com
http://www.hob.com/venues/ch
ues/dallas/

Nov. 10, Saturday
Ray Wylie Hubbard
Doors @ 7 PM, Show @ 8 PM
Granada Theater
Dallas, TX
$12 and up
Ages 17 + Up
http://www.raywylie.com/



A Day with Christ

by Chris Christ


Alright, got a fairly nice amount of candy this halloween.
Candy!
Chor
How did you make out this year?
Can
Chor
Can
I got a rock....

Strange but true news: Divorce Expos and spousal assassination

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

This has been a good week for weird news. I'm really excited about the articles I'm going to present to you, as I had a lot of fun writing them. More than I usually do, at least.

It's probably for this reason that (some of) the articles turned out a little longer than usual. So, instead of four stories, there are three... I hope that it's okay.

If it isn't, just let me know and I'll find a way to punish myself. Like I said, anything for my dear readers.

1) Wife: I want a divorce.

Husband: Great! I heard Divorce Expo is this weekend.

Wife: O RLY??

Husband: Yes! Let's take the kids out Saturday and wander around!

Wife: Sounds like a plan! I'll meet you there. I've packed your stuff since you'll have to find another place to stay from now on. You can grab some granola bars on your way out. Oh, and I'm taking the Chevy.

...But in all seriousness, the Vienna Divorce Expo was held at the end of October. The first event of this kind in the entire world, the Expo was organized by Baraz Mediagroup, a company which specializes in wedding planning.

Its motto being "Start Your Life Anew," the Expo was intended to make divorce a slightly less stressful experience for unhappy couples. Thus, the exhibitors hailed from such diverse backgrounds as realty agencies, law offices, marriage counseling firms, DNA analysis labs, and even detective agencies.

Austrian visitors could also attend seminars and workshops on topics ranging from negative effects of divorce on kids to successful conflict resolution during a divorce.

Hopefully, some of the couples who attended the Expo will find that it was a bonding experience and will give their relationship another shot.

But not too many. You have to think about the exhibitors - those divorce lawyers and private detectives have to make a living somehow.

2) This will just go to show what a nerd I am, but the following story is my favorite this week.

The German magazine "Kulturaustausch" ("Cultural Exchange") has recently announced the winner of its contest: "yakamoz."

The contest? Finding the most beautiful word in the world. The winner? The Turkish word for the reflection of the moon in the water.

The magazine jury, which evaluated around 2,500 words sent from 58 countries, took into consideration the candidates' originality, cultural meaning and reason given for submitting each word in particular.

"Kulturaustausch" emphasized that the main purpose of the contest was to promote the study of foreign languages and to bring its readers' attention to the richness of the world's tongues and cultures.

The two subsequent runners-up were the Chinese word "hu lu" (to snore) and "volongoto," which stands for disarray in the south African language Luganda.

And just because I'm Polish, let it be known that Polish was represented by the word "filiżanka" (pron. fee-lee-ZHAN-ka, with the "zh" sound resembling the French "j" in "juin"), meaning a tea or coffee cup.

Some of MY favorite words are the English "leeches" (especially when yelled by Meryl Streep in "A Series of Unfortunate Events"), "cookie-dough" (shut up, the dash makes it one word!), the Polish "zajzajer" (explaining its meaning would take almost as much time as writing down the pronunciation) and the German "Kakelake," for cockroach.

3) You might not agree that lying does not pay off, but you'll have to admit that telling the truth does turn out to be a very profitable habit.

Columbian television recently launched a new hit game show: "Nothing But the Truth." The premise was simple: answer 21 increasingly private questions while being hooked up to a lie detector to win up to $50,000.

Rosa Maria Solano thus won $25,000 in what would be the show's last episode before it got cancelled, despite high ratings. For, to get her juicy prize, Solano confessed to hiring a hit man to kill her husband.

The said episode aired on October 2 and stirred controversy over the show, which had already been under a lot of criticism, after some of its contestants admitted to drug smuggling and prostitution (among other things).

Of course, the U.S. version of the program, "Moment of the Truth," is already on its way, to premiere in the next few months on the Fox network. Other spin-offs are planned in England, Spain, Australia, and in other countries with a poor definition of entertainment.

Oh, and like you care, Solano's husband got tipped off in time and left his wife, alive and well. Like you care.

Sudoku

			4					6
9		8			7	5		
				1		9	8	
		3	8	4				
		1				4		
				6	1	2		
	3	4		7				
		9	6			7		5
1					5			

Up 'til Dawn Letter Writing Campaign

Friday, November 9
2-5 p.m.
Fitness Center

4,700 patients are treated yearly at St. Jude Research Hospital. No patient is turned away, so we need your help in order to continue treating patients at St. Jude.

For more information contact mwalter@centenary.edu

The Conglomerate

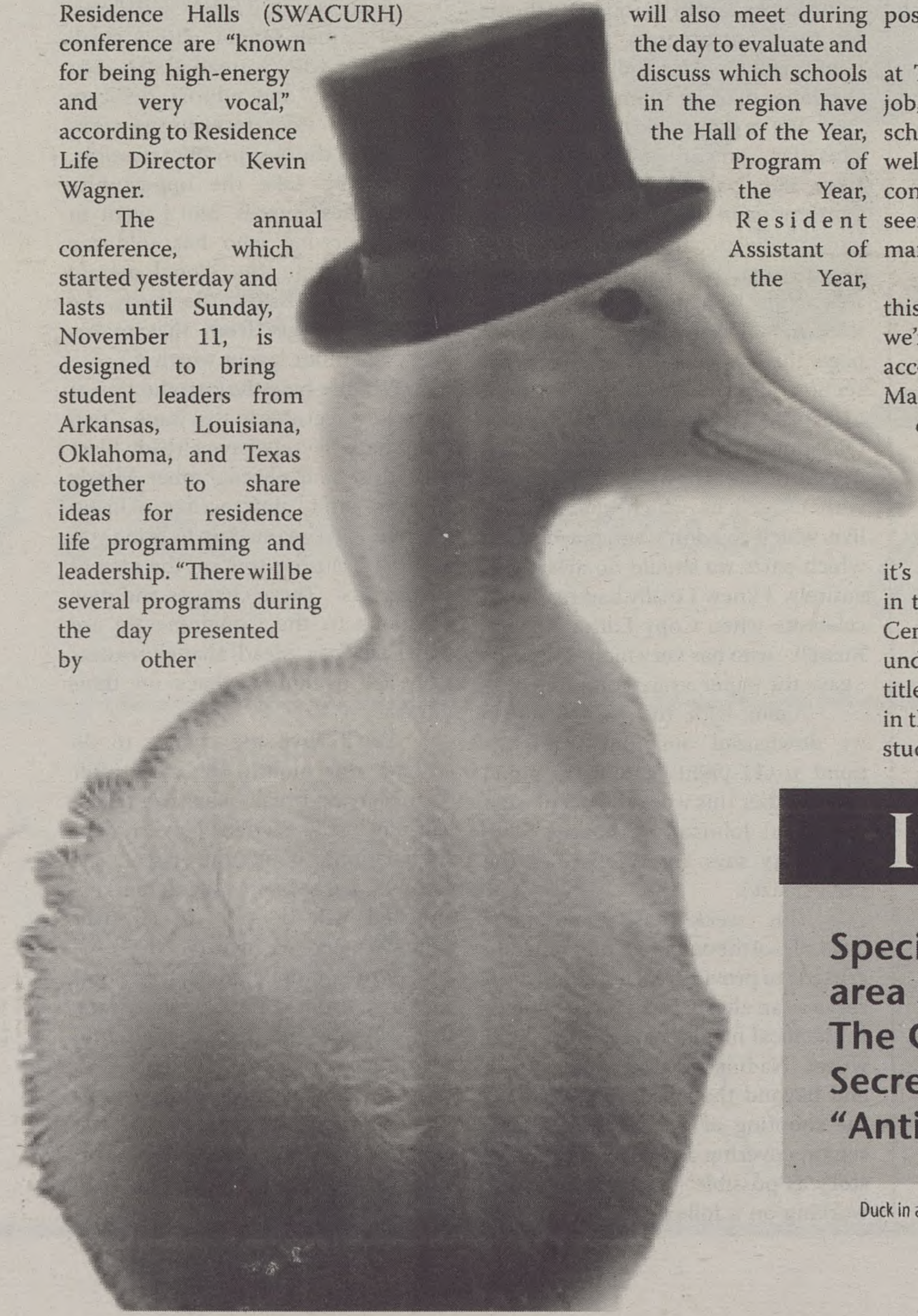
November 9, 2007 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 10

SWACURH COMES TO CENTENARY

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

The 350-plus students visiting the Centenary campus this weekend have only been here for one day, but they've already made their presence known. Attendees of the Southwest Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (SWACURH) conference are "known for being high-energy and very vocal," according to Residence Life Director Kevin Wagner.

The annual conference, which started yesterday and lasts until Sunday, November 11, is designed to bring student leaders from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas together to share ideas for residence life programming and leadership. "There will be several programs during the day presented by other students, to learn what students do at their schools for programming," said Centenary senior Josh Coco. "It's all about learning these ideas and adapting them for your own school." Coco is the Rotary Hall Director for Centenary and serves on the SWACURH Regional Board of Directors. The board will also meet during the day to evaluate and discuss which schools in the region have the Hall of the Year, Program of the Year, Resident Assistant of the Year, and similar awards.



Duck in a hat: the SWACURH mascot is shown wearing a Centenary Gent tophat in honor of this weekend.
Photo illustration by Courtney Delaney.

Though some might worry that the massive three-day influx of visiting students will cause traffic jams across campus, the SWACURH planners sat down with Facilities and planned programs classroom by classroom to ensure that Centenary students experience as little inconvenience as possible.

"SWACURH 2006 was held at Texas Tech, and they did a good job, but we want to show that a small school can pull the conference off as well," said Coco. The fact that this conference is being held at Centenary seems to be a cause of celebration for many involved in the planning.

"We've been preparing for this for three semesters now, and we're really proud of what we've accomplished," said senior Maggie Mahoney, who is co-chair of the conference and Centenary Residence Hall Association President. Programming co-chair Liz Downes added that "it's a triumph in itself because it's the largest conference ever held in the region at the smallest school." Centenary, with a little over 900 undergraduates, certainly holds that title well – the next smallest college in the region has approximately 3,000 students.

Mahoney, along with fellow co-chair Cody Andrews, headed the team that wrote the 40-page bid to host the conference here. "We're the smallest school, but we're nationally known," said Mahoney. "We have the most national Of The Month winners. I love the fact that we can show how small gets it done."

The mission statement of SWACURH (www.swacurh.nacurh.org) states that the organization's purpose is to offer student leadership development opportunities. For both the Centenary students who have been working hard to organize this conference and the delegates who are attending, the organization appears to be doing its job well.

In addition to daytime workshops on residence life programming, an event titled Roll Call will take place at the Shell at 7 p.m. on Friday night. "It's like a big pep rally; we're going to cheer and pump up our own schools," said Coco. The rally calls for each school present to perform cheers and skits to demonstrate the pinnacle of school spirit.

"I'm anxious, I'm excited, and I'm very glad that it's finally here," said Mahoney.

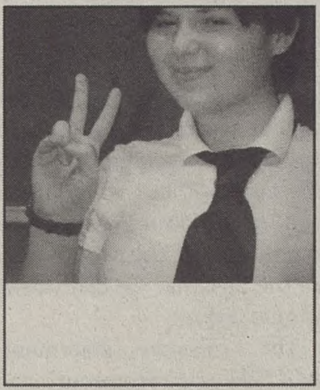
"Before, it was just work," Downes chimed in. "Now we're seeing the payoff."

INSIDE

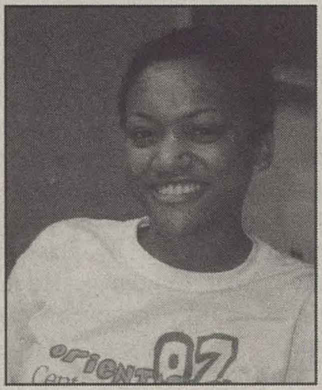
Special report on investigation into Highland area shooting on page 5
The Conglomerate prints the first "Centenary Secret" on page 18
"Antigone" receives sour reviews on page 10

Question of the Week

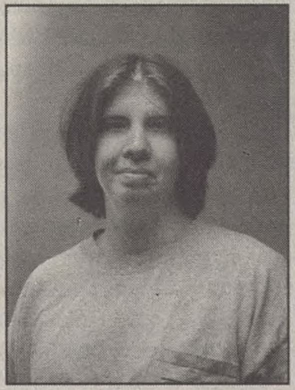
WHO SHOULD GET CUSTODY OF BRITNEY SPEARS?



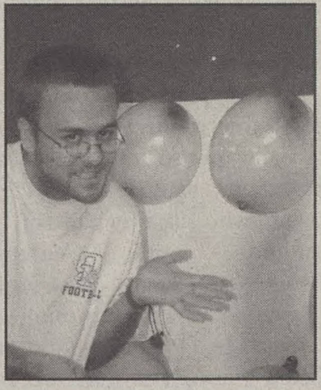
"Angola."
-Camille Gladney,
Sophomore



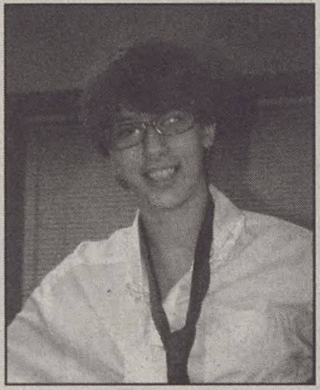
"Her Daddy."
-Candice P. Washington,
Sophomore



"Madonna."
-Liz Newtown,
Senior



"The Czech Republic."
-Parker Jarnigan,
Senior



"Clintons."
-Molly Broderick,
Junior

"I'll take her as my slave 4U...."
-Lizzie Drexler,
Senior

Letter from the Editor: Current changes in *The Conglomerate* and more special features to come

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

We're playing host to approximately 350 students from all over the southwest United States this weekend. To be honest, we want to show off as much as possible. The theme of the SWACURH conference seems to be to demonstrate that even small (tiny) colleges have might – the same can be said of the ongoing theme for the Conglomerate, where we're continually making adjustments to the paper in order to improve.

We've only made minor changes thus far, on an inspiration high from our National College Media Convention in D.C., and we've already had (mostly) positive feedback. At the very certain risk of sounding cheesy, we couldn't be happier! Last week, we tried new design bits with the front page, the horoscopes, and the A & E section. This week, Layout Assistant Courtney Delaney has redone the Question of the Week and the general design of the front page. Be honest with us; tell us which changes you like, which you don't, and maybe even which parts we should do away with entirely. I knew I really had reason to celebrate when Copy Editor Rhagen Russell - who has very high standards - gave the paper a rare compliment.

Again with the technicalities: we downsized our font from 12-point to 11-point, and we're going even further this week to 10.5 (design guru Ron Johnson of Kansas State University says around here is the perfect size).

This week has some ideal examples of the ongoing Conglomerate crusade to provide real news and even serve as an alternative source of news to the local mainstream media. Staff writer Nadine Kaskas went above and beyond the call in investigating the shooting of a local high school senior, covering as many sides of the story as possible – and she's already working on a follow-up. Kaskas also contributed the feature on the runoff election for Louisiana Attorney General, which takes place next Saturday, November 17. To round out our political news coverage, Features Editor Aleks Kasztalska has written about the international controversy surrounding attempts by European aid workers to illegally fly over one hundred orphans out of the African country of Chad.

In the spirit of SWACURH, yes, we are a small school, with a small newspaper with a small staff – but these writers and editors dedicate hours every week to ensuring we're putting out the best product possible. I hope you take the opportunity to read these pieces, and I want to thank everyone who has told me they appreciate the Conglomerate covering these issues. (Seriously, the satisfaction I get from that makes every 12+-hour layout worth it.)

We also have the introduction of some new features in this issue – two Centenary Secrets have already been turned in, and photographer Mindy McKoin and staff writer Allison Cormier have teamed up to bring you a rather amusing spin on the idea of singles ads. These changes and new additions to the Conglomerate are why I ask (beg, plead) that all readers truly let us know what's on their minds.

You'll have the chance to do so later this month, the week after Thanksgiving break, when we take a leaf out of the Student Government Association's book and paper the campus. Large banners with markers attached will be put up all over campus, where we invite you to come and write (anonymously or not) what you think of the Conglomerate. Between now and then, though, I do encourage you to email, Facebook, or stop us in the Caf with any suggestions – and if you're so inclined, our last meeting before break will be this Sunday, November 11, at 9 p.m. in the office (third floor of the SUB).

OPINIONS

The importance of being green

Malari Coburn
Sophomore, Centenary
Environmental Association Member

As I walked into the computer lab on the third floor of Jackson to write this editorial, the lights came on automatically thanks to the energy-saving motion detector that operates them. And while I applauded this small green effort, I also looked around to see twenty-one computers that stay on all the time. It is not easy to be green in this country (or at Centenary), mostly because environmental awareness runs counter to the ideals of American society- consumerism, excess, and growth; bigger is always better.

My parents raised me to be green. I never saw aluminum cans go in the trash; they were collected in the garage until we made a trip to the recycling center. And before I came to college my family had one car- it was all we needed and it was a way of reducing our carbon footprint. When I was younger, the term "green" did not exist culturally in the same context as it does today. People who cared about the environment were considered radicals, hippies, or tree huggers. For this reason, I have not always been open about being green - an environmentally conscious kid yields some really funny looks. I knew not to talk about being green, but I never stopped thinking about it, especially in relation to the environment and climate.

I have only seen snow five times in my life. Never has there been enough of it to play in, and I often wonder if I will ever get to see real snow here at home. My parents say that it snowed here once every couple of years when they were young, but that was twenty to forty years ago. However, winter wonderlands in Louisiana are not my main concern; I'm more worried about the bigger picture: this sudden change in climate, and it is not just here. From Colorado towns based on the skiing industry to ski resorts in the Swiss Alps, these towns are reporting shorter tourist seasons because snow is melting earlier and earlier each year due to unusually high temperatures. Every time I turn on the news there is something about out-of-season weather or the lack of rain (or the strongest Santa Anna winds ever recorded that just helped to burn about one-third of California); the fault of global warming? Maybe, maybe not.

I would like to remind you that global warming is real. It is a natural phase the Earth goes through. For all the skeptics out there, take into account the last ice age. What made it melt? Global warming. We as a society are the ones in the wrong. What we have done to this planet has caused the unnatural to happen. The way we live is detrimental to the Earth and the atmosphere; global warming is occurring at a much faster rate than scientists ever predicted from the findings of their research. But what caused this sudden change? Most of it can be attributed to the explosion of industry in the modern world.

Our country and the rest of the modern world is built on industrialization and industrialization's foundation is rooted deeply in the use of fossil fuels. Burning fossil fuels releases enormous amounts of carbon, in the form of carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere. Most of the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere traps the heat of the sun close to the Earth and global warming takes place at an accelerated rate. Think of it like this: The rise of industrialization was like watering weeds with Miracle Grow. When applied to the Earth (by industrialized countries), global warming began to occur at an unprecedented rate.

However, if global warming continues on its current path, our lives will not grind to a sudden halt and humankind will not cease to exist (hopefully) - and that is possibly the saddest part of all. When the Earth gets so warm that the polar ice caps completely melt and the temperatures of the oceans are altered so much that the Gulf Stream, which keeps warm air flowing over the North American land mass, stalls so that our climate is altered to one of snow and ice all the time; maybe then, in retrospect, our society will decide, in the midst of a cold, icy, and white world, that they should have done more to be green (for further reading about global warming, I suggest "The Discovery of Global Warming" by Spencer R. Weart).

Instead of being pretty in pink, mellow in yellow or true in blue, of all the colors I could choose to be, I choose green. I admit that it is a struggle to be green. I have to make a conscious effort to think green everyday; partially because it is something our society has not conditioned us to do. But I do it because it means something to me. Being green is not pretty or popular; at most, our culture considers it little more than novel. But in being green, one is at least attempting to do something rather than stand idly by. Green is more than just a color. Green is a way of life.

GIVE BLOOD!

Life Share Blood Drive
Monday Nov. 12
11:30am-4:30pm
in the SUB

****If you gave blood at the Sept. Blood Drive you can give again at this blood drive****

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FEATURES

Wagner hopes students will choose dorms over "crap hotels" for break

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Sometimes it is hard being a student in college. There is the constant pressure of turning in assignments, studying for tests, being active in clubs, and trying to earn money, along with hundreds of other things that keep us constantly busy and on the go.

Many times, we have a break to look forward to, whether it is Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Mardi Gras, or Fall Break. However, there are times when packing up and leaving for the break is simply not a very good option.

This can be because a student has a job that he cannot afford to leave for a week or month. The student can't leave because he doesn't have the money to travel or simply does not want to go home. There are a myriad of reasons why someone would not want to leave during a break.

For a long time now, this has always been an issue because students have been forced to leave the campus during long breaks (a week or longer). However, in an attempt to help these students who are either unwilling or unable to go home, Residence Life has offered a solution.

During the break, the residence halls on campus will be in a semi-open state. This means that people who pay a flat fee of 50 dollars will be able to stay in the residence halls during Thanksgiving break.

This flat rate will cover the cost of paying the resident assistants to stay on campus and monitor the halls. This will also cover the costs of paying the custodial staff to come in during the week and keep the halls sanitary and inhabitable.

If you think the 50 dollars is a little extreme, think about this: someone who pays this fee will stay on campus for seven days. With that in mind, they will only end up spending around 7.14 per day.

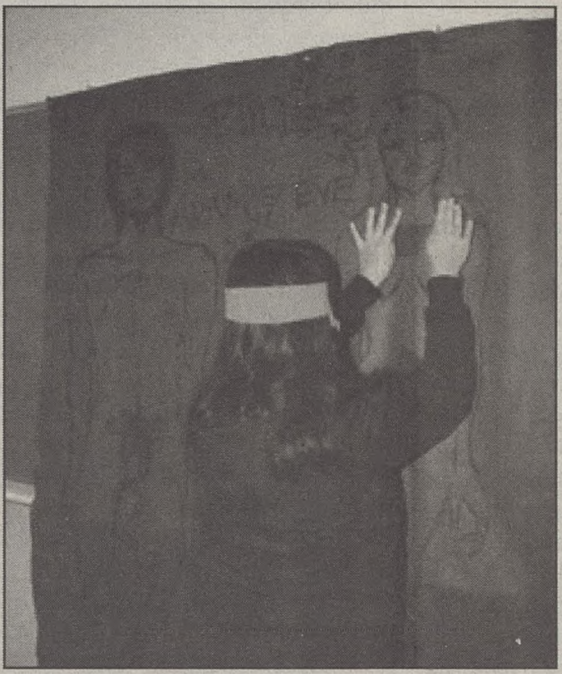
"You can't even stay in a crap hotel for that price. To stay in a crap hotel will cost around 40 dollars a night," said Kevin Wagner, Dean of Residence Life here at Centenary. So the price is a bargain.

It is Wagner's hope that the new policy will be a success and start a trend for every break. Imagine the possibility of being able to stay on campus all year (yes, even during the summer).

According to Wagner, "This plan is something you don't see in most places. Big schools will tell you to get out, whether you are able to or not. What we are trying to do is to make campus life the most convenient for our students."

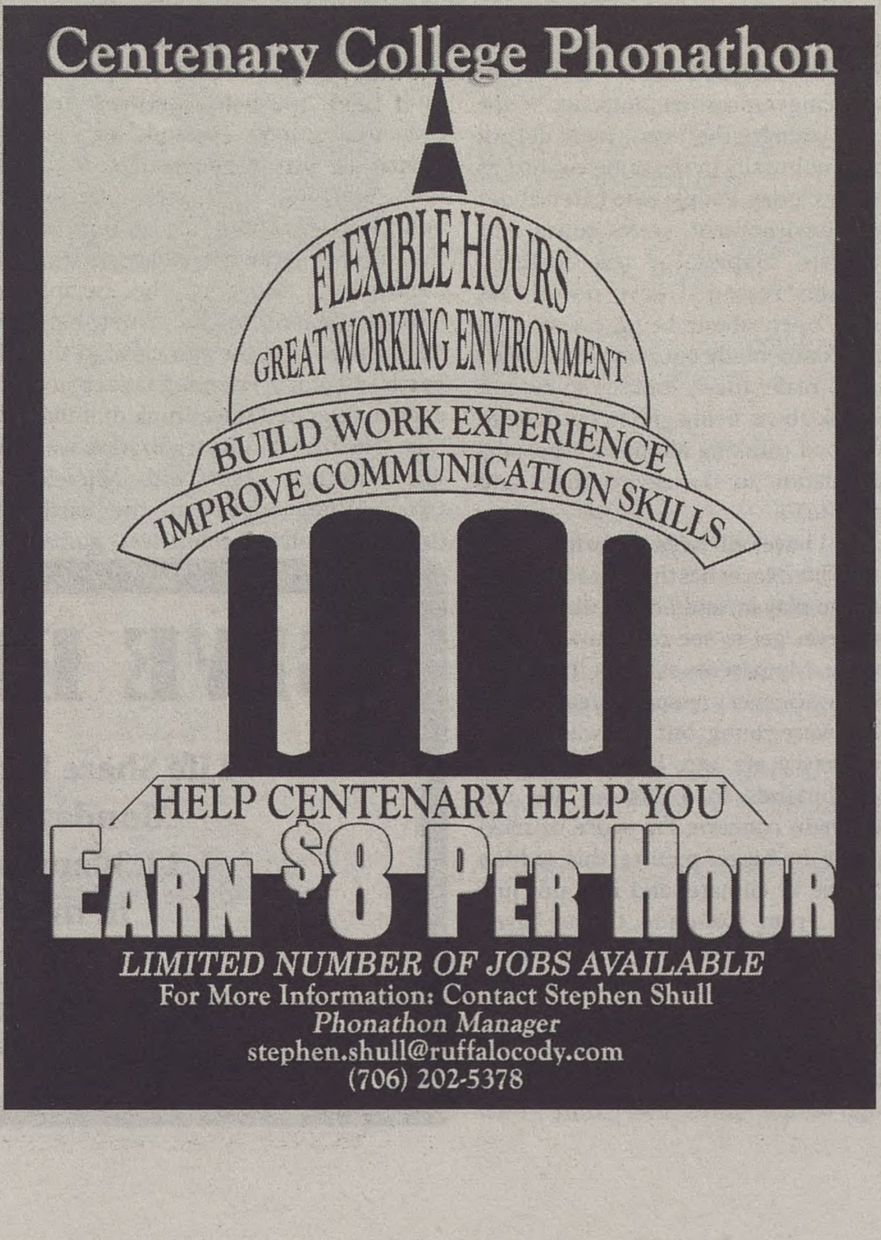
However, there is one problem with this plan - anyone staying on campus will have to find food somehow, as the Caf and Randle's will both be closed during the break. Other than that, everything seems to be in order for students to stay on campus during this Thanksgiving break.

For information, stop by the Student Life Office to learn about the new policy. If you wish to stay, sign up while you are there and you will receive a new set of keys, as they are changed during the break. You will stay in the same room as the rest of the semester. Just don't forget to follow procedures as you would during regular school hours.



A student participates in the Safe Sex Carnivale held in Jackson Hall on Monday night, sponsored by Outreach. Various organizations and volunteers teamed up to educate the campus about safe sex in an engaging way. The Conglomerate's booth: "Pin the Leaves on Adam and Eve." Participants were blindfolded, spun around, and asked to adequately cover Adam and Eve with felt leaves, all for the prize of tickets that could later be cashed in for condoms or books on sex. For more information on safe sex, check out this week's "Sex and the Centenary" on page 8.

Photo by Rachel Powell.



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Runoff for State Attorney General to be held on November 17

left: Royal Alexander; right: Buddy Caldwell

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

Louisiana Attorney General Charles C. Foti, suffering backlash resulting from pressure over post-Hurricane Katrina investigations, lost his reelection bid.

The two major cases that put the Foti campaign on the defense during the election were for unpopular lawsuits against the owners of a St. Bernard Parish nursing home and a New Orleans doctor. Foti lost a negligent homicide case against the nursing home owners, where patients died in the post-Katrina flooding.

He also accused a New Orleans doctor of euthanizing patients after the hurricane, but the grand jury refused to indict after examining the evidence provided by Foti's staff. In the wake of the negative publicity surrounding the incumbent's campaign, Democratic candidate James D. "Buddy" Caldwell, who will be a candidate in the runoff on November 17, benefited in the realm of fundraising.

Caldwell reports over $40,000 received from relatives of the doctor accused of euthanasia. Caldwell, a district attorney from East Carroll, Madison, and Tensas parishes in northeast Louisiana, will run against Republican Royal Alexander, a Shreveport lawyer. In the October 20 election, Alexander received 32% of the vote. Caldwell, who led the attorney general race in the primary, received 36% of the vote. He has been endorsed by the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, the Louisiana Sheriff's Association, and the Alliance for Good Government, and has served as a district attorney for 29 years.

He said he has won 99% of all the cases he's ever tried, and has lost only two - one in 1983, and one in 1986 (www.shreveporttimes.com).

Alexander has served as the Chief of Staff of U.S. Congressman Rodney Alexander, an Administrative Law Judge, and a Law Clerk to a U.S. District Judge. He says he wants to fight against political corruption and cronyism (http://www.royalalexander.org). For more information, visit the campaign sites at www.buddycaldwell.com & www.royalalexander.org

Investigation into attempted murder of local high school senior continues

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

Caddo Magnet High School senior Pete Hawkins was driving home after a calculus study session with some fellow classmates last Tuesday. As he turned onto Highland off of Ockley, he noticed a brown 1990s Chevrolet Caprice behind him. He accidentally passed the street to his home on the 500 block of Linden Street, so he turned the car around to get back to Linden. As he did so, he noticed that the Chevrolet Caprice did so as well, but he didn't think anything of it. He pulled into his driveway a couple of minutes after 10 p.m. He got out of his car, and then noticed that his windows weren't rolled all the way up. He got back into his car, and then sat on the edge of his seat to roll up the windows. He heard someone yell, "Hey, bitch!" He turned around, and was shot in the arm.

Hawkins fell out of the truck and tried to crawl underneath it. He was dragged out by two males who then pointed a gun at him and shot him in the side. After shooting him twice, they said, "You have any money, anything valuable, boy?" Hawkins responded, "I don't have any cash, take my wallet." The shooters then dug around his truck and pulled the wallet out. Upon opening it, they found seven dollars in cash.

One of them said, "You lied to me, boy, and you're going to die for that." He then put the gun to Hawkins' head and fired. The bullet misfired and did not go off. The shooter started cursing, pulled the gun away, and then chambered another round. He put the gun to Hawkins' head again, and pulled the trigger. The bullet misfired again. At that point the shooters kicked Hawkins in the head, in the legs, and in the stomach multiple times. As they were about to shoot Hawkins again, the front door of the house opened and the dog came outside. The shooters then fled the scene.

Pete Hawkins said, "I feel very lucky to be alive...only one in 500 bullets misfire. They held that gun to my head and pulled the trigger twice, and each time it misfired. What are the chances of that?"

Justin Haydel, the Hawkins' next-door neighbor, said "[When it happened] I was in my bedroom, watching TV with some friends. I heard the gunshot; it was right by my window. I ran to the other side of my house, called the police, and turned off the lights. I thought people were fighting in the street. After the first shot, I heard, 'Fuck you, motherfucker' and then two more quick shots. The paramedics were there very quickly, before the police got there. When I went outside, there were four or five cop cars; the police had surrounded him (Pete Hawkins) and were questioning him. At the time, I felt like he wasn't completely cooperating. He said, 'I don't have to tell you anything,' but then again, he was shot twice. I'm sure he was in a lot of pain. The police asked questions [including] 'Have you been drinking tonight?' and 'Are you on drugs?' Those questions seem like they're not relevant when he could just be subjected to a drug screening at the hospital, although it may have made a difference in how the paramedics should treat him."

Haydel, who is a fourth-year medical student at LSU, says the detectives questioned him two to three days after the event, and "they said it was a random event." Haydel said, "I work at the hospital, and that week alone we had a shooting every day. I mean, these guys followed him home; they targeted him. The ER doctors were talking [about it]... there could have been a possibility of a gang initiation [for there to have been so many shootings so close to each other]."

It has been reported that the area in which the incident occurred is very dark at night because the streetlights often malfunction. "The lights stay lit for one or two months, and then they burn out and no one changes them for three more months," Haydel said. "Cedric Glover said [after the incident occurred] that things were going to change, and the next day the lights were fixed, but someone shouldn't have to get shot for them to fix our lights."

Kenneth Hawkins, Pete's father, said, "The reason this matter has so many people taking notice is that in what we think is the safest place, our home, these kinds of things can occur. Another reason this is getting a lot of attention is that it emphasizes the fact that this can happen to anyone: young or old, rich or poor, black or white. There are people out there who have no regard for life, and are willing to take it...They shot him before they asked for money."

Rebecca Cunningham, a Louisiana Tech University freshman who is a close friend of Pete's, said, "The brutality of the attack is horrible. I believe the police should focus on finding who did it."

Pete Hawkins remains hospitalized. He has undergone a triple intestine resection, and has lost the use of his left arm.

If you have any information on the crime, please call Shreveport police detectives at (318) 673-6955 or Shreveport Crimestoppers at (318) 673-7373.

Aid workers face jail over attempted kidnapping of African children

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

On October 30, 2007, 16 European nationals were charged by Chad's authorities with abduction and fraud.

The nine French and seven Spanish aid workers were in a group of 21 people who had been arrested in late October in the city of Abeche, in east Chad. They are accused of trying to illegally fly 103 orphaned children out of their home country – and to take them to France.

Some of the accused are members of an aid group called L'Arche de Zoe (Zoe's Arc), which claims to have arranged "French host families for the children to save them from possible death in Darfur," the place of a four-year-long bloody conflict that has left some 200,000 dead (www.news.yahoo.com).

The others detained were journalists and flight attendants, who were released on November 4 after talks between the Chadian President Idriss Deby and France's President Nicolas Sarkozy. They were taken to their respective countries, leaving behind the aid workers whose situation is yet to be resolved.

If found guilty by Chad's court, Zoa's Arc members can be sentenced to 20 years of hard labors, despite their dening any wrongdoing and claiming to have had good intentions.

However, according to United Nations and French officials, the problem with this explanation is that many of the orphans (ranging from one to 12 years old) who were to be flown to their new host families in France do, in fact, have living parents in Chad.

Needless to say, the incident has stained diplomatic relations between Chad and France, but Paris was quick to denounce the Zoa's Arc's attempt, claiming that it is "totally in agreement with President Deby's saying that this operation should not have happened" (www.news.yahoo.com).

Still, Chad's President Deby demands harsh punishment for what some Africans have referred to as a form of modern day slavery. Deby furthermore points out that the children could well have been "sold to a pedophile ring or used to supply human organs" (www.alertnet.com).

In a recent interview with www.cnn.com, Joseph Ochieno of the Uganda People's Congress explained that what is really at stake here is trust: "You come to supposedly support us," said Ochieno, "but it is quite clear that this huge amount of trust has been broken between us and Western aid agencies."

He pointed out that many Africans are bitter and angry over the incident because they feel that the West does not respect them and keeps taking advantage of them.

Ochieno added that "Yes, Africans need to begin to take responsibility," but at the same time, the West "need[s] to stop double standards and begin to help us to address root causes of conflicts in Africa."

Despite the embarrasing situation, France's Secretary of State for Cooperation is quoted by Reuters to have said that the incident "has no impact on France's presence in the region." Thus, it will not affect France's participation in the European Union peacekeeping force, which is to soon deploy troops to the violent eastern Chad region.

For the time being, the fate of the detained Zoa's Arc members is up to Chad's judicial system, but Sarkozy hopes that the French nationals implicated in the incident will be judged in their home country (www.lefigaro.fr).

As for the 103 African children who were to be sent abroad, they are currently staying at an orphanage in Abeche. Tracking their families in Chad has proved extremely difficult due to the children's young ages, to their sheer number, and to the overall situation in the region. Red Cross spokeswoman Inah Kaloga has told CNN that it is unlikely some of the children will ever return to their families.

Leading Ladies Dance Tryouts

The Leading Ladies are Centenary's first and only spirit group. They will dance at men's and women's basketball games.

Workshops to learn tryout routine will be held on:

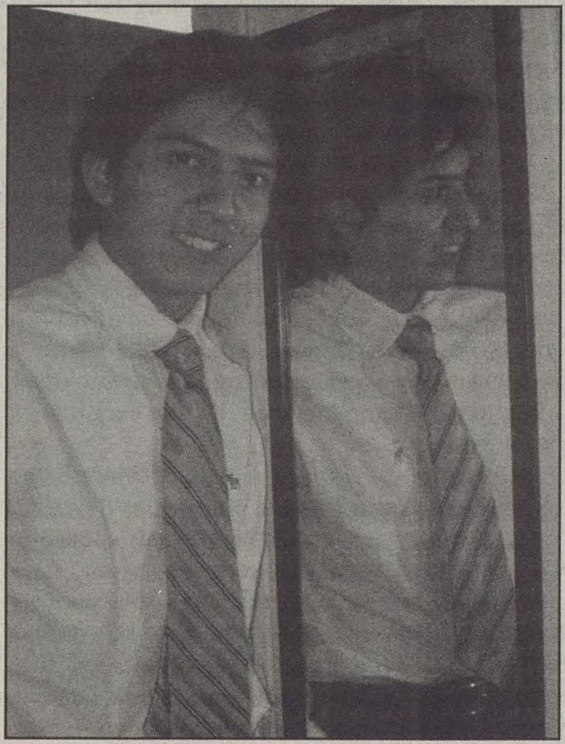
Tuesday, November 13th from 4 to 7 pm
Wednesday, November 14th from 6 to 7 pm

Tryouts will be held Thursday, November 15th at 6 pm

Wear comfortable dance clothes
Anyone with dance/drill team/cheer experience

For more information or questions, please contact Ashley Deatherage at adeather@centenary.edu or Katy Woodward at kmarino@centenary.edu.

Meet Oscar Medellin-Robledo, an Engineering major and tennis player from Mexico



Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

Conglomerate: Hi, could you introduce yourself to the other students?

Oscar: My name is Oscar Medellin. I'm from Mexico and I major in Engineering. I'm also on the tennis team.

Congo: Where did you go to high school?

Oscar: I studied all my high school years in Mexico.

Congo: What do you miss the most about living in Mexico?

Oscar: My family, of course - my mother, my father, my sister... And the food, and my friends. Everything.

Congo: Have you been to the United States before?

Oscar: Yes, I lived in New York for a year, and I also lived in Tennessee for two years. But I lived in Tennessee when I was only one-three years old, and in New York when I was ten.

Congo: Why did you choose Centenary, out of all places?

Oscar: Well, because of tennis. I was in this thing called College Prospects, where they were helping me find a scholarship, and Centenary had the best scholarship.

Congo: What's your opinion of our school so far?

Oscar: I like it so far. It's small, you can meet a lot of people, the teachers are good... I really like it.

Congo: What surprised you the most about Centenary? Oscar: All the activities. That's something new to me, because in my high school there were some activities, but not that many. You always have something to do here, if you don't have homework and if you have the time.

Congo: What are your plans for Thanksgiving Break?

Oscar: I'm going to Houston with two of my friends from Centenary.

Congo: What are your hobbies, interests, etc.?

Oscar: Well, I love playing tennis, but I enjoy playing all kinds of sports, especially soccer. I also like playing video games, Xbox, listening to music, watching movies and hanging out with my friends.

Congo: If you could meet any famous person, who would it be and why?

Oscar: Rafael Federer! He's a professional tennis player. He's number one.

Congo: Do you have any tips for students who are thinking of studying abroad in Mexico?

Oscar: You really need to learn the language, since it's one of the hardest languages in the world. You need to learn it, because a lot of people in Mexico speak some English, but it won't help you that much. And just enjoy it. Mexico is a really nice country; everywhere you go it's beautiful, and the people are nice. And the food! Enjoy the food.

Congo: So, what's your favorite Caf or Randle's food?

Oscar: Spaghetti's always good... And those chicken wraps they sometimes make in the Caf. I like those.

Congo: Is there anything else you would like to say?

Oscar: TKE is really good! Everything is good so far. It's kind of hard because of school, TKE, and tennis, but I always have fun.

Photo by Mindy McKoin.

Greek life hosts food drive

Nadine Kaskas, Staff Writer

Panhellenic and the Interfraternity Council hosted "Thankful To Be Greek" last Wednesday in the Fitness Center. The main purpose of the Thankful To Be Greek event was to collect pasta for the local food bank. All fraternity/sorority members were encouraged to attend and bring at least two boxes of pasta in order to meet the goal of 750 boxes. Activities at the event included chapter-sized relay games with prizes for the winners. Professional photographers attended the event to take pictures of Greek members in their letter t-shirts for the Greek Life brochure and website.

Morgana Broussard, a coordinator for the event, said, "The point of the event was a food drive for the local needy; there is a great need for outside organizations to contribute to the local food bank. It was just a plus that we also could encourage Greek unity and celebrate Greek life in general."

The hosts of the event have not met their intended 750-box goal and will be accepting pasta donations into next week. For more information on helping out, contact the Office of Student Life at (318) 869-5117.

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Sex and the Centenary: On abstinence, the sex-less side of safe sex

Retraction:
My last article, titled "How to make chivalry fit in a college budget," should have been titled "The death of chivalry." Unfortunately, my editors mistitled that article, much as I love them. I want to clarify that I am in no way a supporter of the notion of "chivalry." It is a concept based on gender roles and the idea that a woman must be supported – financially and emotionally – because she is incapable of taking a man on a date herself. Instead, I offered several suggestions on how to spoil your partner – of either sex – without being sexist or spending large amounts of cash (seeing as most of us are students on low budgets). Please accept my apology for the lack of clarification in that article.

Southern Elle
Staff Writer

Seeing as it is Safe Sex Week, I think it's a very opportune time to approach a topic I rarely discuss (and which is not addressed by movies such as "Knocked Up"): abstinence. While the A-word seems like something I would be against, seeing as I'm obviously sexually active and comfortable with that status… well, don't get your panties in a twist yet. Abstinence fits right in with everything I believe and condone as a sexual lifestyle. While I might have my qualms with abstinence-only education, abstinence itself is quite different. Abstinence-only education deprives teens of the ability to make choices by refusing to give them accurate and useful information. Abstinence is a lifestyle chosen by people who don't want to have sex, temporarily at least, for one reason or another. The big word here is "choice." Choice implies some degree of free will that allows an individual to make decisions about his or her life. So why is abstinence such a good choice?

To begin with, people choose abstinence for a variety of reasons: religious beliefs, personal health, emotional health, personal beliefs about sex, and plenty of other reasons. Some people fear getting pregnant before they graduate (or can support a child); others want to avoid STDs. Some people even choose abstinence because they aren't comfortable having sex with someone they don't love or aim to marry. Individuals may choose to be abstinent until they are married, until they are in a committed relationship, or just until they are more comfortable with their own body or emotional self. This choice can be based on any number of reasons – the important thing is that the reason is one which is incredibly important to the individual.

Ideally, "abstinence" describes a lifestyle devoid of sexual contact that involves bodily fluids other than saliva. This means the six-month break you're taking from sex because you can't find someone to sleep with doesn't count. While "abstinence" might sound like an easy and clear term, many people still practice it in different ways. Some people practice abstinence as "no sexual activity until marriage," others practice it as "no sexual activity until I'm engaged or in a very committed relationship," and others may go to the extremes of "no kissing or sexual activity until I am engaged/married." On the other hand, there are people who see abstinence as "oral sex, but not intercourse" or "anything short of intercourse." But these slippery definitions, which count some sexual behaviors but not all, have serious problems. One of the biggest benefits to practicing abstinence is reducing the risk for STDs and pregnancy. But having oral sex or anal sex can still put you at risk for STDs – so make sure you recognize that you aren't "protected" by "abstinence" if you're going down.

If you didn't get that bit about the benefits part, let me repeat it. Abstinence is the 100% safe way to prevent STDs and pregnancy. That's some seriously safe sex, when you consider that the pill and condoms are between 85-99% effective (depending on if you use them correctly or not – which most people don't). Some religious conservatives go so far as to claim abstinence can also protect you from emotional pain – such as having sex with someone who breaks your heart later – but I'm not going to jump that canyon. Emotional pain comes from everywhere – abstinence, condoms, therapists, insurance, and God can't even protect you from that.

So where's the downside in abstinence? If you guessed "not having sex," then you're pretty damn right. If your sex drive gets the better of you on a regular basis, abstinence may not be the way to go. Abstinence can be a tough prescription for anyone who lives in American culture – there are sexual images, references, and invitations everywhere! But if you do decide it is the way to go, there are some ways to help keep your libido in check…

1) Clarify your reasons for staying abstinent. Just like with any goal, you have to stay focused and strong. It's ok to have doubts once in a while. But make a list of your reasons for staying abstinent, so that you can always remind yourself.

2) Find support. Working for a goal with a group can provide the support you need when you do have doubts. This doesn't mean all your friends have to be abstinent. Instead, find a sympathetic close friend or a group with whom you can talk. Religious individuals often join church groups or bible studies which reinforce abstinence goals. If you aren't religious, find other people who have similar ideas about sex or check out the internet for chat rooms and discussion boards where you can talk. Dating people who understand and respect your lifestyle can also provide support and reduce the pressure you may feel to become sexually active.

3) Be honest with your partners.

While not every person you might date will be comfortable with being abstinent, it's important to talk to your partner. Understand that being abstinent may be more difficult for someone you date, especially if it's not his or her personal choice. Don't shut off to your partner's feelings; talk to him or her about how this affects your relationship and the difficulties involved. Being honest can give you a deeper emotional connection, which will support you when the going can get rough.

4) Stay consistent.

Don't think "just this one time it will be ok." Stick with your goal. This doesn't mean it's the end of the world if you slip up and make a mistake; stuff happens. But don't treat yourself (or other people) as if this is a decision to be handled lightly.

5) Be careful with alcohol, drugs, and alone time.

You don't have to abstain from the above just because you are abstaining from sex. But many sexual encounters (and, unfortunately, rapes and sexual assaults) stem from nights of drinking or drug use. Take a partner or friend with you to parties. This person should be willing to leave with you, and the two of you can monitor each other's alcohol intake (and know when to call it quits). As for alone time – well, every couple needs it. But if you spend most of your time together horizontal in a bed, your hormones are going to run wild. Find other activities, like dates, movies, etc. so that you can spend valuable time together without feeling the need to jump each other's bones.

If/when you decide to stop being abstinent, use protection. Several studies on abstinence-only education show when teenagers who have sworn to be abstinent do eventually have sex, they are less likely to use protection. Whether that's because protection is stigmatized or because they don't know enough about how to protect themselves, I'm not sure. But they are more likely to get pregnant or get an STD by not using protection. Abstinence won't protect you if you're having sex! So pick up some condoms at Safe Sex Week, or check out the mailbox next to the health clinic in Rotary. Make yourself a dental dam with Saran wrap, get on the pill or shot, and get tested regularly! If you choose to enjoy sex, don't forget about the unplanned pregnancies and STDs that can come with it.

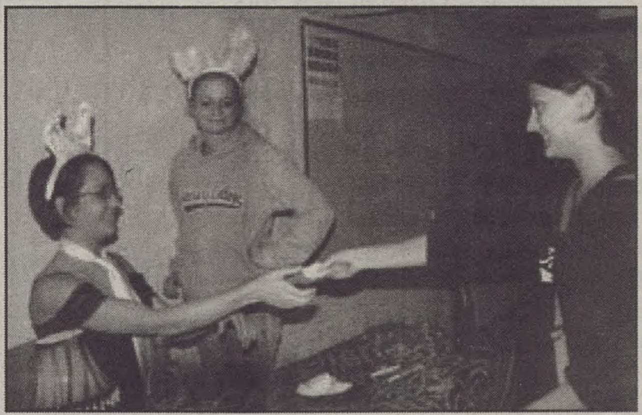


Photo by Rachel Powell: Outreach members and student volunteers like Sarah Eich (far left) give out sexual fortunes at Monday Night's Safe Sex Carnivale. Perhaps some fortunes included a recommendation for abstinence....

Advice from Allison: On bullies and best friends

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

Dear Allison,

There is a group of guys who are in most of my classes. All semester they have thrown things at the back of my head during class, whispered mean things to me during class, and have literally bullied me.

I figured this kind of behavior ended in high school, but I guess there is no limit to immaturity. What should I do about these idiots?

-Bullied Biologist

Dear Bullied,

I've found that if people constantly try to make others feel inferior, it's because they are overcompensating for something in their lives. These boys may have many different problems they are trying to deal with and find it easy to just take out their anger on you.

It could be anything, such as a failed relationship, terrible grades in their classes, catching a venereal disease, or even poor endowment in certain areas of the anatomy.

My best advice to you is to ignore these boys. They just want a reaction out of you. If their actions cross the line, take the passive-aggressive route.

If they live on campus, dip their toothbrushes in their toilets. They won't ever know, but it will give you a great feeling of satisfaction.

I know that it certainly worked for me.

Dear Allison,

My best friend has become close friends with a girl that I really don't like. She has more time to hang out with him and they are constantly together. She's a terrible influence on him, too.

Though my friendship with him is much deeper than hers, she is still constantly around him. I want to hang out with him, but I won't because she's there. What should I do?

-Baffled Bestie

Dear Baffled,

You can't ever control who your friends become friends with. We've all seen our friends do things we don't approve of, but as their friends we still have to be there for them.

Let your friend know in a mature way that you don't care for his new choice of company and explain why. Let your friend know it won't change your friendship with him.

Then start a terrible rumor about the new girl in your group of friends. No one's going to want her around then and you can have your best friend back.

Centenary Singles

Name: Allison Patrick
Year: Senior
Major: Biology
Zodiac Sign: Virgo

Worst Date Story: It was Valentine's Day during my senior year of high school and my boyfriend told me that he had made really big plans for Valentine's Day. He ended up forgetting about Valentine's Day. He ended up taking me out at the last minute to a sushi restaurant. We ended up watching a movie later that night and he farted. It was so disgusting that I threw up.

The moral to the story is never let your date eat octopus sushi.

What are you into?: Guys that are edgy and have tattoos and piercings. Actually, tattoos and piercings are essential. They have to have a bigger build than me. No experience is necessary.

Ideal date: Any date where I don't have to pay. I like spontaneous and adventurous dates where he'll take me to do something I've never done.

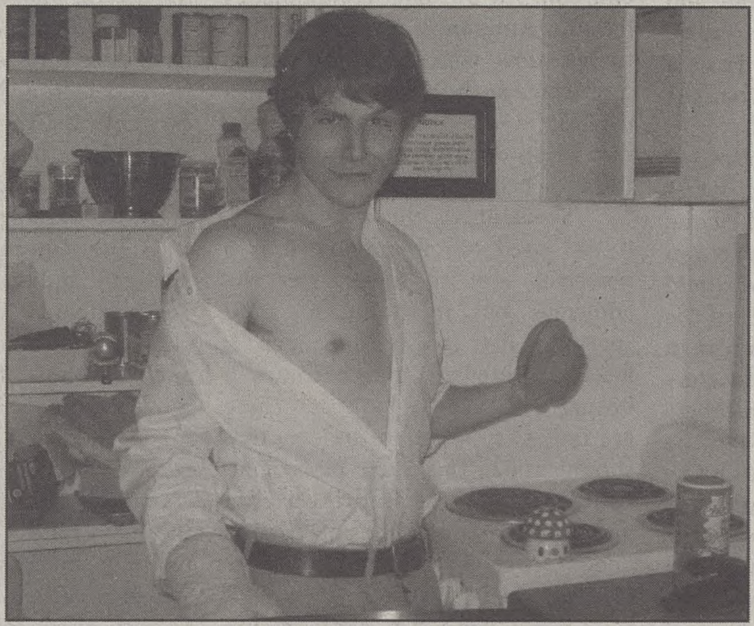
Name: Christopher DeGueurce
Year: Junior
Major: Philosophy
Zodiac Sign: Pisces

Worst Date Story: I once took a girl out to eat at a coffee shop and everything went wrong. On the way there we were stopped by a train. While we were waiting for the train to pass, the conversation was awkward, if there was conversation at all.

When we finally got to the coffee shop, it had closed. I ended up taking her to Barnes and Noble for coffee, but it was so crowded that we had to sit awkwardly close to each other for another round of nonexistent conversation.

What are your turnoffs?: The girl must not be self-obsessed, extremely shallow, or superficial. Also, she must not be unattractive.

Ideal date: Any date where we do something fun, the conversation flows, there is a lot of laughter, and some kind of physical contact at the end.



A&E

Futuristic "Antigone" production is ambitious but misguided

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Before I begin, let me say that I normally enjoy the plays provided by Marjorie Lyons Playhouse. I usually find that the students and staff who work there do fine work that can provide ample entertainment for a couple of hours during a weekend. Definitely a great escape from homework.

This season has been going extremely well. The Shakespeare plays at the beginning of the semester were very good. "On The Verge" was something for the Playhouse to be proud of. No complaints on my end for those shows.

But, then we come to "Antigone." For those who are unfamiliar with the play (as I was), the story takes place after a battle between two brothers, Eteocles and Polynieces. When they both die, the king, Creon (Adam Boyd), declares that Eteocles will be buried as a hero, while Polynieces will be left to the crows and dogs. Well, this doesn't sit well with Antigone (Lorna Dopson), who was the sister to both. At risk to her own life, she attempts to bury her brother. Greek tragedy naturally follows, which means lots of corpses on stage by the end of the show.

This version of the play is ambitious. I will give it that. Everyone involved aimed high. However, the weapon they fired with wasn't quite strong enough to hit the target.

My biggest complaint with the play is the idea to base it in the future after World War III. I don't usually like the idea of placing a play in a time period different from when it takes place. Sometimes, I can be persuaded to think differently. However, this time, it didn't work. The play would have been more powerful had it been left in Ancient Greece, as was intended.

Don't even get me started on the radio voiceover at the beginning. It didn't set the mood for the play, or at least not the mood it needed.

However, the biggest problem for the play (and I will receive ridiculous amounts of hate mail for this and possibly a death threat) is that many of the actors simply seem like they are going through the motions. I felt no sense of investment.

The only people on stage who come out almost unscathed are Adam Boyd, a strong performer who does his best with Creon but still appears uncomfortable in the role, Cameron Bradford, who makes the best with a very small role as Haemon (Antigone's betrothed and Creon's son), and the three members of the chorus (Nate Wasson, Karen Massey, and Emily Mwakitawa). The chorus members at least appeared to be enjoying their parts throughout the performance.

However, I didn't totally hate the production. The decision to use A Perfect Circle's album "eMOTIVe" as the soundtrack for the play was inspired. It matched the setting beautifully. The stage was nicely done. Overall, the production quality was executed very well. Plus, the play was short. My only complaint with the other shows this season is that they were long, so this wasn't bad at all.

This pains me, especially because I have seen how good MLP can be this season. I see what they were trying to do, but I couldn't help but feel that it was an ambitious misfire. I still hope for good things for the rest of this season and hope that the performers and workers in MLP learn from their mistakes on this production and make the rest as entertaining as they deserve to be.

Student presents a theatrical perspective on "Antigone"

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

"Antigone" is playing at Marjorie Lyons Playhouse this weekend and hopes to bring in a huge crowd with its updated war theme. From a theatrical perspective, however, the show isn't much to talk about.

As a performer and aspiring director myself, there were a lot of problems that still needed fixing before opening night. For those of you who have read "Antigone," you would know that the main character of the play is Antigone herself. However, in this particular production, the stars of the show were the three members of the Chorus. They stay on the stage most of the show, minus a few moments when they exit and enter from another place in the theatre.

With regards to Antigone's performance, a friend I will not disclose the identity of for fear of his/her disembowelment said that "she can do no more than sell fish," meaning her arms looked like a Barbie doll's with no movement or emotion. The one huge compliment I have for Antigone's character applies to her slow walk from upstage to downstage at the point of the thrush (that is the added portion of the stage that hangs over the first two rows of the audience).

Speaking of the thrush stage, it was used too frequently. It is a powerful spot to tower over the audience, but it should be used sparingly. If it is used too much, it loses its intensity and becomes a boring position to look at. There are only two points in the play that should utilize this stage placement: Antigone's slow walk from the back to give another monologue and Creon's ending speech with the chorus, at the last moment of the play.

There were two platforms on stage: one on stage left and another on stage right. The one on stage left (that is the audience's right) was used only twice in the entire play, whereas the one on stage right (the audience's left) was only used once. They should have been utilized more frequently to add some level changes and excitement. Creon's opening speech should have been performed on the platform stage right, not at the point of the thrush stage.

The Chorus stole the show, giving the audience a sense of mystery and excitement with their character choices and mystifying movement and presence. They did, however, move too much. The movements they made distracted the audience from the scene that was unfolding and the characters that are supposed to be the main focus. There was a genius lighting choice at the beginning of the show where the male chorus is lit with an under light, which adds that little extra bit of eeriness to that character.

All of the characters attempted to out-scream the others. Not only does this kill your vocal chords, it's really irritating to the audience and does not help move the narrative or keep the intensity of the play high. It would be much more effective to whisper or talk lightly in a stern voice than it would be to yell at your adversary.

I'm not one to be mean or pick on people, but I am one to be honest and critical of something that deserves my criticism. I wanted to enjoy this play, for the sake of my own soul and for the protection of my life, but I just couldn't. Hate me all you want; this is just what I observed from what I've learned and studied about theatre. With all the right intentions, "Antigone" just missed the target it was aiming for.

CD reviews:
FROM PROGRESSIVE ROCK TO BUBBLEGUM POP

"Prints," Prints

Tyler Davis
Staff Writer

Have you heard the new album by Prints? No, not "Prince" - Prints (as in the plural of "Print"). This self-titled debut is a must for fans of collaborative jam, progressive rock, or electronica.

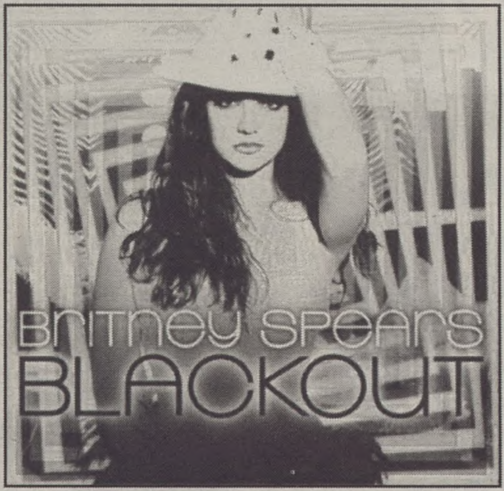
Most of the songs on this album start out with either a simple rock or keyboard tune and the next thing that one hears is the jam vocals of mouth-made wah-wahs and whistles. This is due to the band's nature to improvise lyrics.

Prints has a tendency to make all their music in a studio setting and the vocals are usually laid down in two takes after twenty minutes of free verse jamming. So what one hears on the final recording has most likely only been recorded two or three times.

This is made possible as the band does make use of several electronic do-dads to create a masterful symphony of something like a barbershop quartet meets Devo.

If you are a big fan of driving around in your car and singing "la-la-la-la, do-do-do-do!" to tunes that you make up off the top of your head, then you would probably love the musical stylings of Prints. Certain fun and uplifting tracks like "Easy Magic" or "Too Much Water" will make you feel less alone in your car if your friends have refused to ride with you due to your... creative nature.

"Blackout," Britney Spears



Samantha Green
Staff Writer

It's Britney, bitch! Britney Spears' new album, "Blackout," is great for the Britney fan in all of us. "Gimme More," her first single, is the first song on the album, and it sets the tone for a great album which concludes with "Why Should I Be Sad," a heartfelt song that really speaks to her fans.

Obviously, Britney Spears is no longer the teeny bopper she once was. Gone is the virginal teenaged girl and here is the "Hot as Ice" vixen ready to find her "Perfect Lover" and have a "Freakshow." Britney Spears' "Blackout" is a good album that stays true to form to Spears' previous albums. Many of the songs sound the same, but that is typical Britney Spears.

Songs like "Get Naked (I Got a Plan)," "Heaven on Earth," and "Ooh Ooh Baby" have slightly different beats and somewhat different lyrics but are essentially the same song. "Toy Soldier" breaks the norm and sounds like a jab at K-Fed.

Leave Britney alone! "Piece of Me" is the best song on the album. It feels like Spears is ranting about her life in the song. The song is witty, especially when she refers to herself as "Miss American Dream."

"Blackout" is a good album. With all the controversy, it was almost a necessity for Britney Spears to release a good album. The sound of "Blackout" is a mixture of pop and rock, reminiscent of Gwen Stefani and Fergie. "Blackout" is an album for the Britney Spears fan in all of us.

"Dropping the Writ," Cass McCombs

Tyler Davis
Staff Writer

"Dropping the Writ" is Cass McCombs' third album. And it is one of the most dynamic pieces of musical talent you will experience. Some songwriters claim to gain inspiration from a muse, but McCombs seems to go a step further in capturing his muses themselves in his songs.

Melodies are so defined yet intangible; one may feel the urge to sing along to his songs, but will soon find that any attempt is thwarted by his beautiful, light-as-air vocals.

The music itself is hard to define in terms of genre. There seem to be various forms of rock, folk, pop, and psychedelic. There are tracks such as "Pregnant Pause" that are seductive in the melodic form, and use of the acoustic guitar patterns run wild under an angelic pop vocal. Other tracks, such as "That's That," tend to sound like the ghost of a Sex Pistols song; instead of anger set to thrash, it's the persistent spirit of punk rock possessing the Beatles and James Taylor.

Musically speaking, "Dropping the Writ" is an auditory experience that is best understood just by taking the time to listen to it. The songwriting alone is a talent that I would not expect to be coming from anyone in today's music arena.

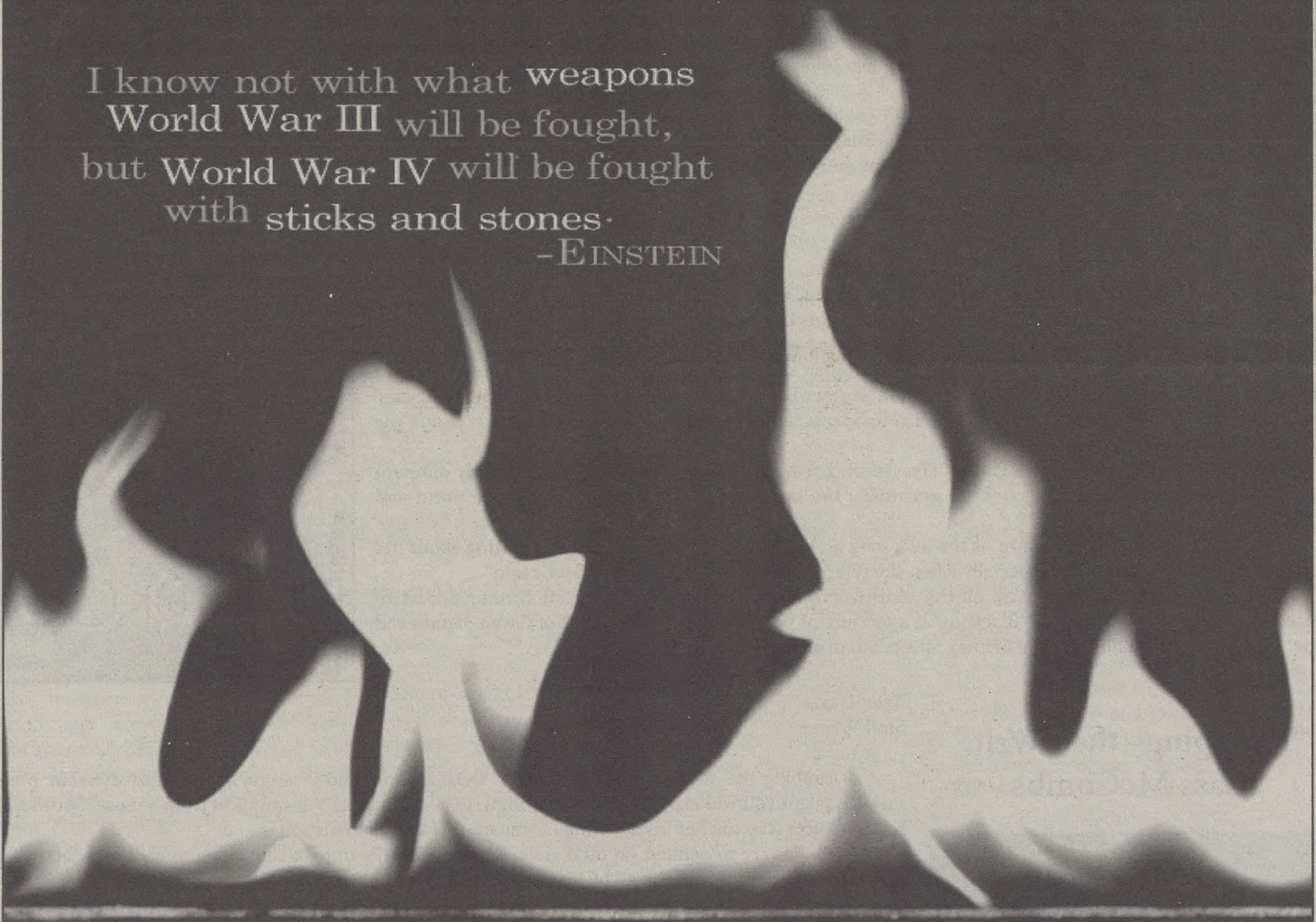
The folk elements hearken back to a time when writing music was about telling a story, yet the pop elements scream out that this is not musical snobbery and that everyone should enjoy this music.

In my opinion, and on my honor as an experienced music lover, a musician, and a music director at a fine radio station, I say without reserve that the tracks on this album are what pop music today should be but isn't.

MARJORIE LYONS PLAYHOUSE
at Centenary College
PRESENTS

ANTIGONE

Directed by COURTNEY GASTON



I know not with what weapons
World War III will be fought,
but World War IV will be fought
with sticks and stones.
-EINSTEIN

SPECIAL PREVIEW PERFORMANCE
Wednesday, November 7th at 7:00pm

BOX OFFICE: 318.869.5242
Open 12:00pm to 4:00pm

November 8th thru 10th at 8:00 pm
November 11th at 2:00pm

"Elizabeth: The Golden Age" is a mediocre film with fabulous costumes

WOMAN WARRIOR QUEEN
CATE BLANCHETT
GEOFFREY RUSH CLIVE OWEN
ELIZABETH
THE GOLDEN AGE

Sadly, Cate Blanchett and Clive Owen do not get it on.

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

Likeanycinema-crazedfeminist, I love biopics about strong female figures in history. However, I was slightly disappointed with "Elizabeth: The Golden Age," the sequel to 1998's Oscar-winning "Elizabeth."

The sequel takes place nearly three decades after Elizabeth I was established as the 25-year-old Queen of England, and director Shekkar Kapur's take on the Golden Age of Queen Elizabeth is a bit lackluster. "The Golden Age" is a very cautious effort on Kapur's part.

The leading role of Elizabeth I is once again portrayed by the illustrious Cate Blanchett who, only nine years earlier, made a name for herself through the same role.

Blanchett immersed herself in the role, portraying a more mature queen with a fierce passion and fiery sincerity. She portrays the older Elizabeth I as a woman who knows what she must do for her kingdom no matter how much it contradicts her personal desires.

Blanchett's Elizabeth is a female Protestant ruler during the rise of Catholic fundamentalism and must face two political figures that attempt to destroy her reign: the Catholic King Philip II of Spain and her traitorous Catholic cousin Mary Stuart.

Elizabeth also becomes strongly attracted to explorer Sir Walter Raleigh but accepts the reality that the Queen of England cannot form a union with a commoner and watches Raleigh fall for her favored lady-in-waiting, Bess.

Elizabeth, clad in a long red wig and Joan of Arc-style armor, rallies her armies and armadas to defeat the Spanish, and England succeeds to become the most powerful kingdom in Europe.

While the film is attractive to watch due to its elaborate costumes, wigs, and set design, it lacks a very entertaining storyline. The acting is superb, but nothing can liven up the old-Hollywood feel of "The Golden Age."

It is almost ironic that a film depicting a female ruler taking unimaginable risks to protect her country cannot take cinematic risks of its own. The film may only be mediocre, but it is a great way to spend an afternoon if you enjoy strong female characters and fantastic costumes.

Gory fourth installment is a treat for "Saw" fans

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Many wondered how another "Saw" would be made. Both Jigsaw and Amanda are dead. But what if there was another accomplice? What if Jigsaw had another person helping him?

"Saw IV" introduces two FBI agents who'd been working with Detective Kerry. Detective Kerry had been conferring with the FBI about the Jigsaw drama. She'd been informing them of her findings. With her dead, the FBI agents take over the investigation. They deduce that Amanda Young had to have had help putting Detective Kerry in her contraption. Everybody's a suspect.

SAW
IT'S A TRAP

While this is going on, two police officers disappear. Lieutenant Rigg, partner of Detective Matthews from "Saw II," is told to play a game to help him let go of the past. Rigg's game is unlike those shown in the previous films. Detective Hoffman, a new character, is taken to be a part of the game.

"Saw IV" has really good death scenes. Those chosen to partake in Jigsaw's games are some of the best compared to the previous films. There are some good surprises, too. Oh yes, there is blood!

"Saw IV" gives a lot of back story. It shows Jigsaw's ex-wife, the history of the dummy on the tricycle, and Jigsaw's first game. It shows Jigsaw's transition from logical level-headed engineer to the man he was when he died. Lieutenant Rigg's past is shown, too, in an effort to help the audience understand him more.

The ending of "Saw IV" is great. There is a really clever, unexpected twist. "Saw IV" ties in with "Saw III," and that is good. Like the previous "Saw" films, "Saw IV" leaves room for another movie. I recommend "Saw IV" to those who enjoyed the previous films.

Ballet ticket prices for...

The Nutcracker

The Moscow Ballet will be performing its Great Russian Nutcracker at the Strand Theatre on November 19th @ 7:30PM.

I would like to welcome your alumni and current students to the event at a discounted rate. Ticket rates and discounts are as follows:

$67, discounted $10, $57
$47, discounted $5, $42
$37, discounted $5, $32
$27, no discounts.

There will be a $2 service charge on the complete order. Ticket discounts are for a minimum of ten tickets and this offer can be extended to friends and family of alumni and students, as well as any interested staff or faculty members.

The performance is coming quickly, but there is still time.

DVD review: “Spider-Man 3” comes with unoriginal extra features

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

I am an unabashed superhero nerd. I read the comic books when I was little, watched the cartoons, played the video games for the Nintendo and had the action figures for almost any superhero you could name. Since superhero movies have become all the rage in Hollywood nowadays (there are at least four coming out next summer), we have been bombarded with tons of movies about many different characters. Some were good (“Spider-Man” 1 & 2, “Batman Begins”), some mediocre (“Daredevil”), and some terrible (“Ghost Rider”).

This past week, “Spider-Man 3” was released on DVD, but is the DVD worth owning?

I think so. Granted, there are some flaws with the movie (both from a storytelling perspective and a fan perspective), but overall it is still a fun movie that has plenty of heart.

This time, Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire) is finally having things go his way. He is with Mary-Jane Watson (Kirsten Dunst). The city loves him. He is praised everywhere. He has finally figured out how to manage his personal life with being Spider-Man. However, all the success begins to go to his head, and when an alien goo lands next to his scooter, it attaches to him and turns his suit and personality black.

Peter starts to turn bad, while also having to deal with several villains - the Sandman (Thomas Haden Church), his friend Harry (James Franco), and, most of all, himself.

The main problem with this movie is that there is too much happening. There are too many characters and too many scenarios. The movie feels crammed, even at over two hours.

There are many lapses in logic and the characters are not as likeable this time around. Plus, the movie kind of ends on a downer (which the other two didn’t). However, I still give it my recommendation because the action scenes are spectacular, with the standouts being the opening scene with Harry and Peter fighting through the rooftops of the city, a crane sequence, and the final four-way brawl at the end of the movie. There is still more heart in this movie than just about any other blockbuster.

The humor still stands strong, with lots of inside jokes from the comics as well as some really funny moments with Peter’s editor, J. Jonah Jameson (J.K. Simmons).

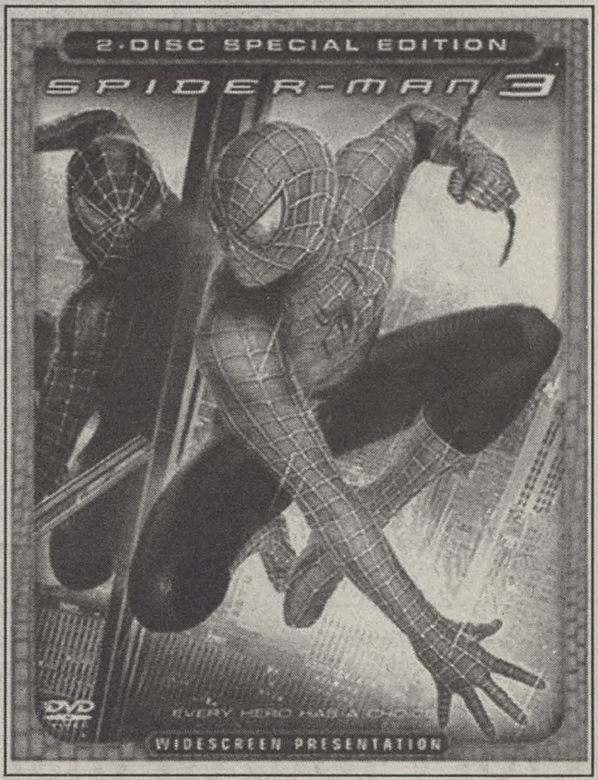
The DVD is pretty good. It comes in two different versions, a one-disc and a two-disc. The one-disc version only contains the movie, some commentaries, a blooper reel, and the music video for Snow Patrol’s “Signal Fire,” which is a really cute video that replays the events of the first two movies with little kids performing a play based on the movies.

The movie looks good and the sound is very good also. So this is definitely a movie worth watching on the largest screen possible with the best surround sound possible.

If you buy the two-disc version, then there is obviously a second disc that has many featurettes and other extras. For the most part, these extras are very good, but if you have ever watched any DVDs before, then these extras are nothing that you have never really seen before.

This is a movie that I lend my recommendation to if you already own the other two movies, liked the third, and would like to have it in your collection for completion’s sake. People who really did not like this movie will not find anything here that will change their minds.

The movie is flawed, but the DVD is good enough that I can overlook some of the flaws of the movie.



March of Dimes

Come support the March of Dimes
by attending these activities
hosted by Phi Beta Lamba.

Monday, November 12, 2007
Ping-Pong Tournament
6pm in the SUB
($5 entry fee)

Wednesday, November 14, 2007
Decorate your own cupcakes
12pm-1pm in the SUB

Don't forget to
wear pink & blue!

Fall fashion trends include knit dresses and leggings galore

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

Elizabeth Bowen, the owner of Imelda’s Boutique, said, “Knit dresses and dresses with leggings are really in for fall. With those dresses we’ll see a lot of boots and ankle boots. Black patent for shoes and all color patents for handbags are very cute. This year we’re seeing a lot more variety in the types of shoes: round toes, square toes, pointy toes, everything goes right now. Last year the pointy toe pretty much dominated, but now it’s whatever you like goes. Although there’s always a really huge western influence here in the area - cowboy boots are always a big seller; we sell out every year - it’s not as big of an influence this year.”

New York’s Fashion Week, covered by the New York Times, recently exhibited plenty of belted coats and tailored dresses, lending to a narrower silhouette for fall. New York’s Fashion Week also featured tweed coats, overlarge knit sweaters, a variety of hats, and navy and black combinations. Evening dresses came covered in sequins or trimmed in feathers.

SPORTS

The Conglomerate presents: The life of a student athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

Well, my week has been quite exciting, to say the least. I mean, how great of a feeling was it to watch the Boston Red Sox sweep the Colorado Rockies in the World Series? To me, it was something that was hard to explain to those who claim they hate the Red Sox. Obviously, it felt even better to brag to those Yankees fans or even the one-hit wonder of the White Sox.

As far as school and softball are concerned, it has been pretty hectic for a few weeks now, but the thought of Thanksgiving break nearing is what keeps me moving.

Our team has been working hard as usual on and off the field, while we still find time to share our free time with those who need it the most. Last week, we laid grass - lots of grass. We helped out Habitat for Humanity for several hours in order to provide the homeowners with beautiful front yards and possibly a chance to landscape.

This past Friday night, we also spent five hours working a carnival at a local high school football game. Never would I imagine so many little kids running around for five hours. I have to admit, the work we did sure was a comparable measure to our morning workouts.

Halloween Hoopla also shared time in my busy week as a collegiate athlete. Basketball season is here and our team is eyeing the chance to scream at the referees where on the softball field, it wouldn't be allowed.

Well, I just would like to give a shout out to those Red Sox fans who shared the winning ways with me recently. Go Red Sox!

Swim team meets success at Hendrix Classic

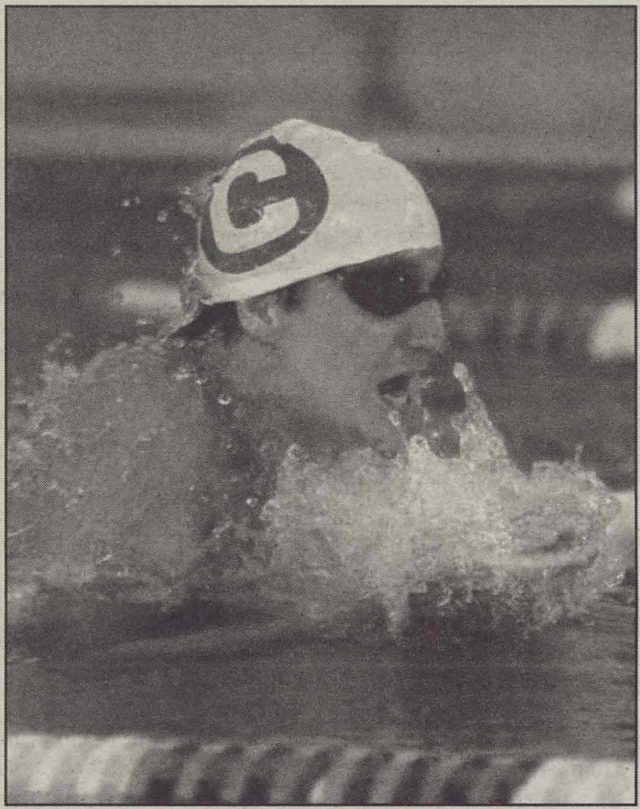
Jessica Brown
Staff Writer

The Centenary Swim Team competed in the Hendrix Classic and the Hendrix Relay Classic this past Friday and Saturday. The men took second at both events and the women took second at the classic and first at the relay classic, working hard and swimming fast to defeat Henderson State University.

Assistant Coach Joe Ferguson stated, "Our kids got up and swam fast when they had to. They really got up and raced the other teams." Despite tough midseason training, the swimmers were able to pull off wins in many events.

Top performers on the men's side include Quinn Larwood, taking second in the 1000-yd. freestyle, Rustin Green, taking second in the 200-yd. butterfly, and Chase Lambert, taking second in the 200-yd. freestyle. Top relay races were swum by Bryan Myers, Dustin Myers, Chase Lambert, and Wladimir Montoya, who finished second in the 400-yd. freestyle relay. Josh Pena, John Cefalu, Lambert and Bryan Myers swam the 200-yd. freestyle relay. Adam D'Aquin, Arron Otto, and Alex Opland swam the 300-yd. backstroke relay, and Montoya, David Moss, Brian Myers, and D'Aquin swam the 200-yd. medley relay.

Top performers on the women's side include Maggie Vaughan, dominating both the 1000-yd. and 500-yd. freestyles, and freshman Lauren Kloepfer, winning the 200-yd. butterfly. Leslie Wyatt also had a strong showing in the 200-yd. individual medley, taking second in that event. Relays that rocked on Saturday include the 400-yd. medley relay with Wyatt, Kloepfer, Beth Geis, and Leslie Clampitt, the 200-yd. freestyle relay with Melanie Zimmerman, Alana Gregory, Murphy Crain and Nicole Turner, and the 800-yd. freestyle relay with Holcomb, Natalie Nazzal, Vaughaun, and Geis. The strength and depth of this team continues to grow. The swim team heads to Delta State



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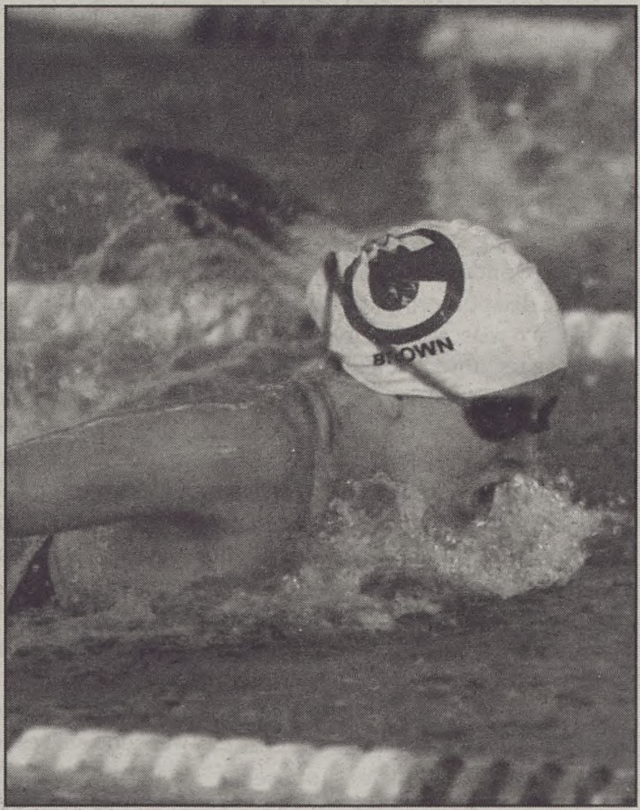


English premier league season reaches first base

Jonathan Hedley
Contributing Writer

“The league table means nothing until at least ten games into the season,” somebody famous once said. This old adage is the unilaterally accepted benchmark conceived to protect naïve optimists such as yours truly from getting their hopes up too high when their team finishes the first day of the new campaign top of the table. Only after at least ten matches, a quarter of the season, does the table begin to take shape and we can permit ourselves to start looking at it, stretching our (surprisingly elastic) arithmetic skills to the limit as we assess the probability, amidst an endless jungle of ‘if’s, of our team winning something.

And so here we are, finally, at that point when the matrix of the league table begins to form almost recognizable shapes from the abyss - the slow-motion bullets that will inevitably veer toward our slowly back-flipping title campaign. Some of us will dodge those bullets, others will learn to their dismay that we are not the chosen one. Taxi for Jose? Thank you.

With the passing of the ten-game mark, we can finally give Manchester City official status as “Surprise Package of the Season,” currently floating blissfully in third place in the Premier League after a bright start under new coach Sven Goran Eriksson, the former England Manager who was hounded out of his previous employment and generally regarded as a bit of a chinless wonder after taking England to three disappointing Quarter Finals in his six-year stint. City have, for many years now, been mid-table at best, and Eriksson’s appointment this summer could barely have raised fewer eyebrows. Revenge for the coach dubbed “the Professor” for his cold and calculated approach is sweet at the moment; time will tell if it lasts. Interestingly enough, none of Eriksson’s seven new signings this summer are English.

On the flipside of the coin, this season’s surprise howlers are Tottenham Hotspur who, having been tipped by those who supposedly know best for a top four finish this year, currently languish in the, er, bottom four. In a desperate bid to salvage something of the season, however, chairman Daniel Levy has installed one of Europe’s most promising coaches, Spaniard Juande Ramos, winner of two consecutive UEFA Cups with Sevilla.

Other than that, there is little going on in the English Premier League that was not predictable. That is if you regard the Chelsea fiasco as old news. Current champions Manchester Utd lie second behind Arsenal after a stuttering start that saw them second bottom of the league after the first three games – proof if there ever was of the fact that the table means nothing until ten games in. Arsenal, who four years ago won the title without losing a single match – the first team to do so in over 100 years - are back to their dynamic best with manager Arsene Wenger yet again running amok with a squad of young players that cost virtually nothing, developed under his expert eye.

In fourth place are Chelsea, who, having parted company with Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho earlier this season for reasons best known to billionaire owner Roman Abramovich, have made an impressive resurgence, spanking the aforementioned Surprise Package Man City upstarts 6-0 at Stamford Bridge last week.

Portsmouth and Blackburn occupy fifth and sixth places respectively, which, if the season ended now would qualify them for the UEFA Cup, Europe’s secondary international competition after the Champion’s League. Such a finish would flatter both teams, although Harry Redknapp’s Portsmouth are enjoying just reward for a 4-1 away thrashing of Newcastle last weekend. Blackburn, on the other hand, flatter to deceive, climbing up the table by playing the same style of football as their coach Mark Hughes did in his playing days – basically kicking people, falling over a lot and riding their luck.

Game to watch out for: this weekend serves up a very tasty derby match between Newcastle and local rivals Sunderland. The latter have just returned to the Premiership after being relegated two years ago in dramatic style, breaking their own previously set records for consecutive defeats, lowest-ever points tally and fewest goals scored in a season by any Premiership team ever. Newcastle, after finishing the first day of the season at the top of the league (ahem), currently occupy tenth place after two defeats on the bounce. This fixture always promises to be a spicy encounter, the last meeting resulting in a 4-1 away victory for Newcastle in which local legend Alan Shearer scored his last-ever goal for the club – a fitting end to a glorious career. Interestingly, Shearer’s nemesis in his playing days, one Roy Keane, now happens to be in charge of Sunderland.

The only problem is that you’ll have to be up at 6.45 a.m. on Saturday morning to see this one live!

English Teams Reign Supreme in Europe

Last season’s losing finalists Liverpool kept their slim hopes of progressing from the group stage of the Champions League alive on Tuesday night with an 8-0 demolition of Turkish side Besiktas – a somewhat surprising result considering the Turks were the winning side when these two teams met two weeks ago. This time, at home in England, Liverpool were allowed to get into their stride, with England striker Peter Crouch – out of favor earlier this season - proving to be the catalyst for the onslaught. Liverpool still have a steep hill to climb, however, with three points between them and a spot in the second round and only two games still to play.

Elsewhere, form team of the moment Manchester Utd eased past Russia’s Dynamo Kiev with a 4-0 victory that hardly saw Sir Alex Ferguson’s men break sweat. Then again, one doesn’t often break sweat in Manchester in November. Utd are now guaranteed of progression after winning all four of their Champions League matches.

Ferguson, who earlier this week celebrated the 21st anniversary of his appointment at Man Utd, had urged his players to bring him another Champions League title before he retires, the only previous one coming back in 1999 with a dramatic victory in extra time against a flabbergasted Bayern Munich side.

Debate has been rife this week as to whether or not Ferguson is the greatest coach of all time of an English club. Nine Premiership titles, five FA Cups and that memorable European Cup argue his case, though down the road in Liverpool there are those who would disagree, citing Bob Paisley, who won three European Cups with a Liverpool team that dominated football in the 70s and 80s, and the legendary Bill Shankly, who famously said “Football is not a matter of life and death, it’s far more important than that.”

Chelsea and Arsenal both drew with Schalke 4 (Germany) and Slavia Prague (Czech Republic) respectively to retain their places at the head of their groups, the latter also cementing their place in the second round, while north of the border Glasgow Celtic put on a fine display to put Portuguese hopefuls Benfica to the sword. Hopes of a first-ever qualification into the second round are still high in Scotland, with everything depending on the outcome of the next two matches.

Elsewhere in Europe, current champions AC Milan stayed top of Group D with a win over Ukranian side Shakhtar Donetsk, while Barcelona and Real Madrid ensured Spain’s continued representation in the world’s most prestigious soccer tournament.

Cross Country ends season triumphantly

Jessica Brown
Staff Writer

The Centenary Cross Country men's and women's teams both ended their seasons on October 27 at the Summit League Conference championships hosted by Western Illinois University. Both teams are highly ranked locally and have competed against teams such as ULM and Louisiana Tech all year. They consistently outscored many teams in the area and many runners improved at the conference meet.

One large meet they recently attended was the Chili Pepper race in Arkansas, where they competed against big names such as Texas Tech and the University of Kansas. Over five hundred runners competed in this event, and almost all Centenary runners improved their times from this race at their conference meet.

The lead male performer was junior Michael Haydel with an 8k time of 27:52. The lead women's performer was freshman Natalie Holcomb, who ran her 6k in a time of 25:13, a minute drop from her Chili Pepper time. Cross Country Head Coach Shelley Armstrong stated, "Our goal is to continue setting personal records, being one of the top teams in this region, and improving our rank in the Summit League Conference with additional depth and talent."

With lead runners Lori Von Pingle, Laura Way, and William Fell graduating, the young members of both teams will really need to step it up next year to continue and improve. However, based off the strong performances this year, the Centenary Cross Country program looks forward to next season.

LSU Tigers weekly update: On the way to the Superdome?

John Cefalu
Staff Writer

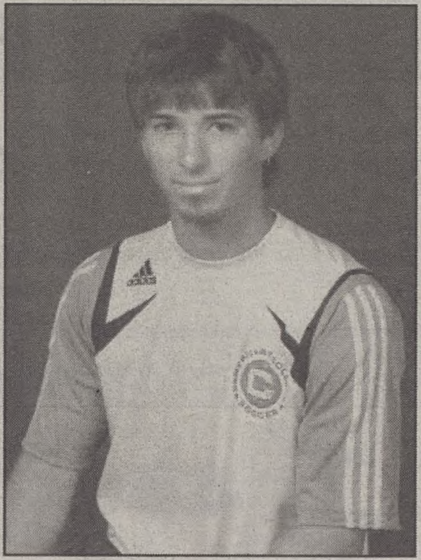
With LSU coming off another close win in week ten, Ohio State remained in the number one spot in all standings after an impressive shutout against a highly ranked Wisconsin team. It is still too early to settle on a BCS championship game. Ohio State and LSU still must continue to play until the final standings come through. Oh, by the way, how about those Oregon Ducks! With a huge win over Arizona State last week, who's going to stop this possible threat?

Now, let me ask you a few questions. How much better could it get for native Louisianans than to have the chance to watch the BCS title game play in the Superdome with their flagship university, in an area where the Vieux Carré, St. Charles Avenue, Bourbon Street, and the French Quarter all come together? Is this fair that LSU might get a chance to play again in New Orleans, 45 minutes from school, in front of an intense Louisiana crowd? Of course it is! Let the heat begin! Plus, it is not likely that whichever BCS title contender comes to the Big Easy will not be treated with great Southern hospitality, right?

LSU

Athlete of the Week: Senior soccer player reflects on the season

Ryan Thacker
Staff Writer



Full Name: Joseph Aaron Volanski
Classification: Senior
Hometown: Magnolia, Texas
Major: Business Management
Sport: Men's Soccer
Position(s): Center Midfield/Forward

Why did you choose to come to Centenary? I had several friends here from when I played club in high school that encouraged me to transfer here after my freshman year at Memphis.

How long have you been playing? I have been playing soccer since I was four years old.

What was the most exciting thing this season? Being named Summit League Athlete of the Month.

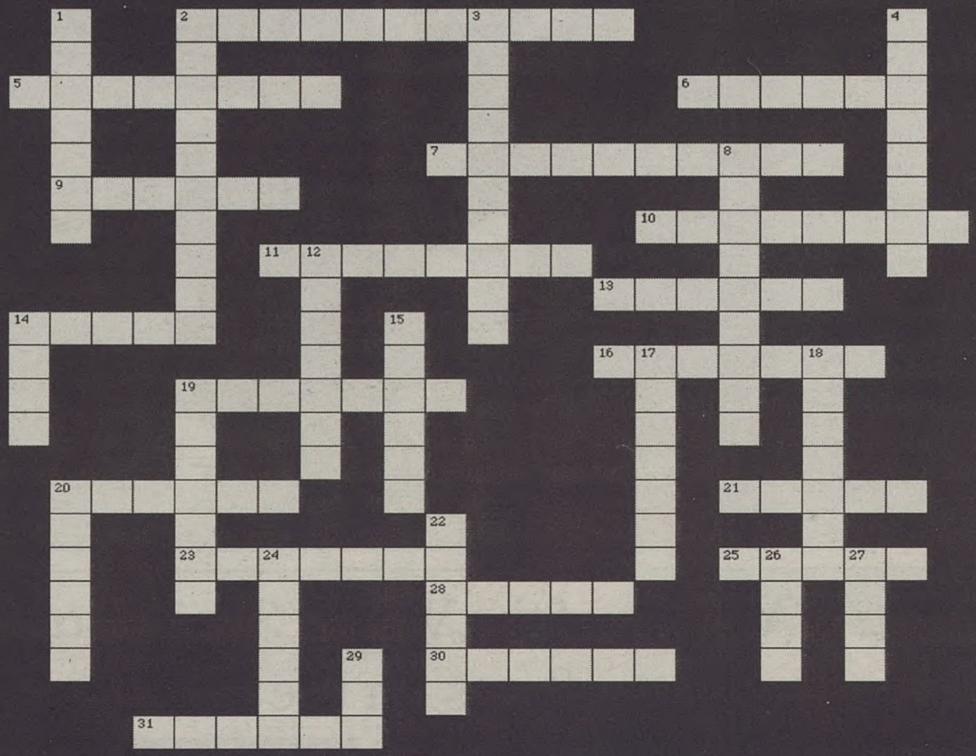
How do you feel about your senior season coming to an end? I'm a little disappointed with the way we finished as a team and sad at the same time to know it's over. Hopefully it will not be bad if I can get invited to the MLS combine.

What has been your greatest accomplishment? Being named a three-time All-American in high school and then continuing here and receiving All Conference honors each year.

What are your plans after graduation? I plan on trying to continue to play soccer, but if that doesn't work I will hopefully try to start my own business.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE:

DO YOU KNOW YOUR VOCABULARY?



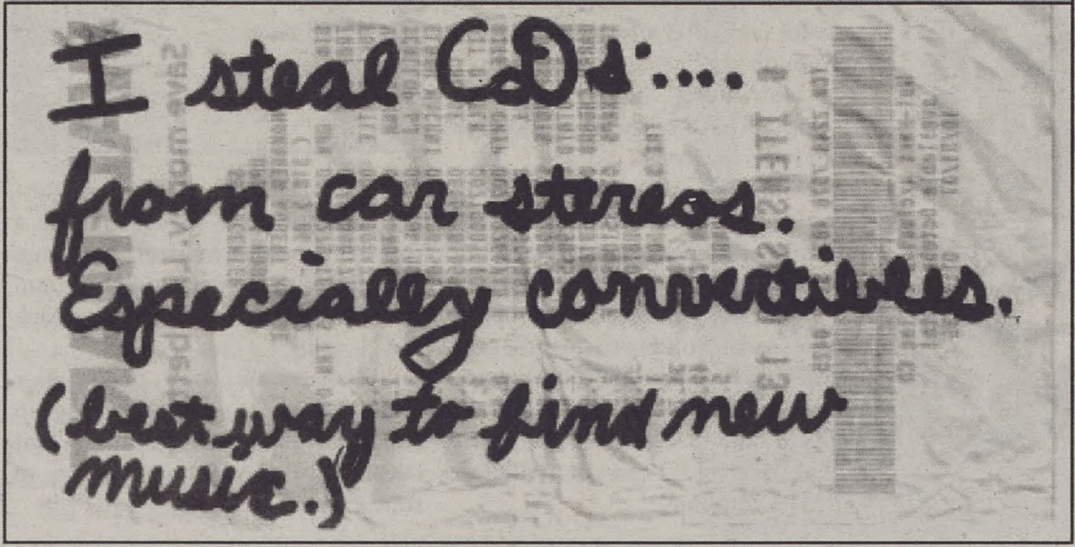
ACROSS
2. Ambient
5. Freedom from punishment
6. Beleaguer
7. Fear of foreigners
9. Indigene
10. Neophyte
11. Bangle
13. Subtlety
14. Procrastination
16. Enrapture
19. Daft
20. Filament
21. Caper
23. Burst inward
25. Lucid
28. Make ammends
30. Mogul
31. Astute

DOWN
1. Behest
2. Self-righteousness
3. Mussy
4. Calamity
8. Inception
12. Merrymaking
14. Mousy
15. Assemble
17. Conceited person
18. Vegetation
19. Zealot
20. Morose
22. Affluence
24. Pestilence
26. Indolent
27. Ethereal
29. Finis

Centenary Secrets

In honor of the newly released Post Secret book, "Lifetime of Secrets," the Conglomerate will be printing secrets of Centenary students.

In order to participate, take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to Campus Box #786 or slip it under the Conglomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.



I steal CDs....
from car stereos.
Especially convertibles.
(best way to find new
music.)

Horoscopes

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) Turkeys are people, too.

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) Don't listen to them; day-old pizza is highly nutritious.

Capricorn (12/22 –1/20) Postpone all life-altering decisions until after finals.

Aquarius (1/21-2/19) Your roommate is plotting something devious - look out.

Pisces (2/20-3/20) Love me do.

Aries (3/21-4/20) Experience dictates that hookers do not always equate to a good time.

Taurus (4/21-5/21) You are not fat.

Gemini (5/22-6/21) Your bridesmaids are not allowed to wear yellow, orange, brown, or pink.

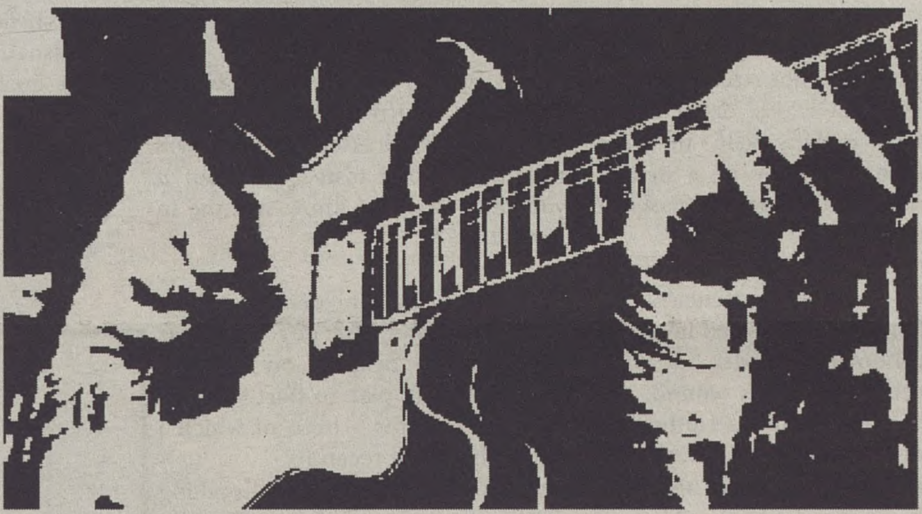
Cancer (6/22-7/23) Blah, blah, blah. If you want a real horoscope, you are looking in the wrong place.

Leo (7/24-8/23) Stop being so cantankerous.

Virgo (8/24 –9/23) In the words of the old country, "get a job."

Libra (9/24-10/22) Honk if you are ready for the holidays.

CENTENARY AREA CONCERT WIRE



Nov. 10, Saturday
Ray Wylie Hubbard
Doors @ 7 PM, Show @ 8 PM
Granada Theater
Dallas, TX
$12 and up
(Ages 17+)
http://www.raywylie.com/

Nov. 10, Saturday
The Gunshy and Judson Claiborne
7:30 PM
Shreveport, LA
Corner of Rutherford and Centenary Blvd (Behind Turner Art Center)
FREE

Nov. 10, Saturday
Transmography, Willie Heath Neal, and The Gran Ole Opry
9 PM at the Jackrabbit Lounge.
For more information, please visit www.myspace.com/liljoes

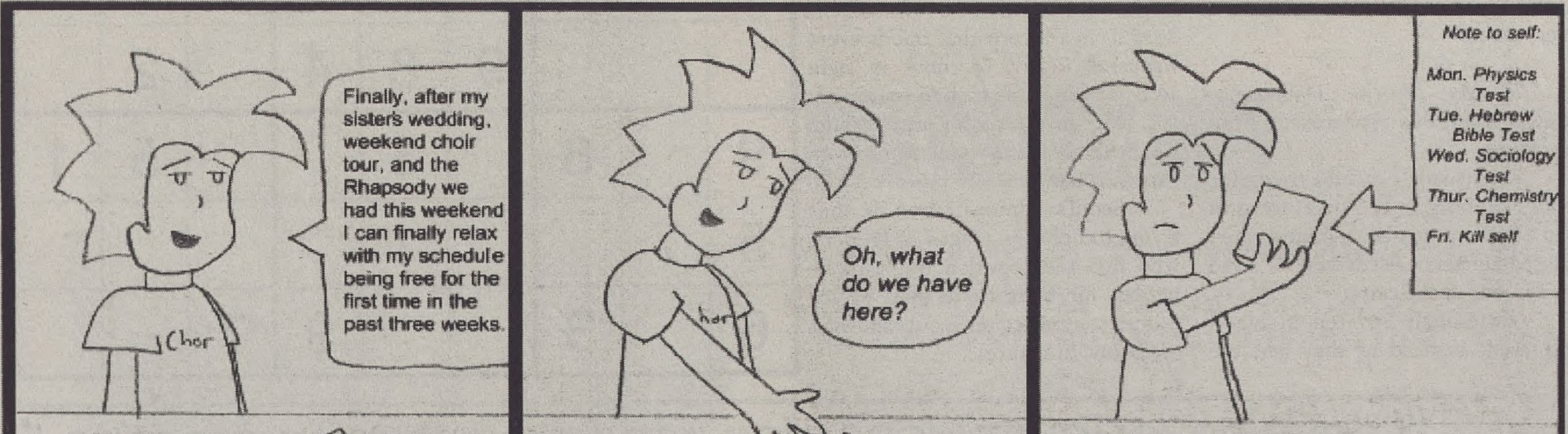
Nov. 16, Friday
Charlie Robison
Doors @ 7 PM, Show @ 8 PM
Granada Theater Dallas, TX
$15 and up
http://www.charlierobison.com/

Nov. 17, Saturday
Benefit for Cystic Fibrosis Foundation w/ Rhett Miller
Doors @ 8 PM, Show @ 8:30 PM
Granada Theater, Dallas, TX
$25 and up (Ages 17+)
http://www.rhettmiller.com/

Nov. 17, Saturday
Squint, 6 Pack Deep, and Afflicted
10 PM at The Warehouse.
For more information, please visit www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

A Day with Christ

by Chris Christ


Finally, after my sister's wedding, weekend choir tour, and the Rhapsody we had this weekend I can finally relax with my schedule being free for the first time in the past three weeks.
Chor
hor
Oh, what do we have here?
Note to self:
Mon. Physics Test
Tue. Hebrew Bible Test
Wed. Sociology Test
Thur. Chemistry Test
Fri. Kill self

Strange but true news: a half-naked series of unfortunate events, a Halloween costume gone wrong, and a 400-year-old clam

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

No intro today. STOP. Aleks lazy. STOP. Or just devoid of creativity. STOP. Stories speak for themselves. STOP. Read on. STOP. Enjoy. STOP.

1) A man in Memphis, Tennessee, was arrested after he crashed his car, got shot at, and broke a window – all within a few hours.

The icing on the cake, though, is that by the end of his series of unfortunate events, he was half-naked.

It all started when the man, whose name was not released to the press (I wonder why?), drove into a street pole. Seeking help, he went banging on the door of a nearby house and eventually kicked in one of the windows.

Unfortunately, the homeowner, Leroy Bruce, didn't particularly like his windows getting kicked in, so he shot the annoying intruder.

Bleeding from his wound, the man took off some of his clothes for no apparent reason and ran toward a McDonald's. Again, for no apparent reason.

There, he threw a rock through the front window (what did he have against windows??) and was eventually arrested by the police, clad in nothing but his shirt and boxers.

If only things like that ever happened at Centenary, it would be SO much easier to come up with features articles for the Conglomerate every week.

2) My favorite Halloween-related story this year comes from Germany.

The usually peaceful train ride from Hamburg to the small town of Bad Segeberg turned dramatic when the passengers discovered a dead man in one of the carts.

Grotesquely covered in blood and, well, as dead as they get, the man was clearly a victim of a brutal murder.

Except, well, he was NOT dead. Nor was he in any way hurt, unless you count all the brain cells he had apparently drunk away earlier that night.

As it turns out, Halloween isn't very commonly celebrated in the German countryside (duh), so the passengers assumed the worst. Not that the man himself was helping by being too wasted to wake up from his drunken catnap.

The 24-year-old was allowed to continue with his trip once he had washed off the gory makeup.

I am so tempted to make a politically incorrect joke about who he was really dressed up as. I will refrain for good taste's sake, but if you really want to know, ask me in person.

4) What a coincidence!

Remember the guy who was trying to sell Belgium on eBay, or India's officials' plan to start women-only train routes – both of which I wrote about just recently?

Now, a man from Texas is selling the town of Albert on eBay. For $2.5 million, this 13-acre town, equipped with a dance hall, a tractor shed and the "cleanest public restrooms in Texas," can be yours (www.livescience.com).

Bobby Cave, the owner of Albert, adds that although nobody lives there permanently and though it might not officially be a town, Albert does have a tavern that opens every weekend. Really, I'd move in right away if I had some cash to spare.

Moreover, South Korea's capital will be introducing women-only train cars in 2008.

Seoul's administration is thus trying to fight the plague of gropers, who find the crowded trains to be perfect for their trade (half of the crimes committed on Seoul's subways are sexual in nature).

What a coincidence! …Or is it?

I mean, there's NO way these people could've come up with the same brilliant ideas as the ones I had already reported in the Conglomerate.

Seems like my readership base is finally going global.

3) "I hope I'm oooold… before I dieee…" Ooops, I just had a spontaneous Robbie Williams moment.

Scientists from Bangor University in Wales have discovered what is believed to be the oldest living organism in the world: a 410-year-old ocean quahog clam. Four hundred years!!

The senile mollusk, named Ming after the Chinese dynasty ruling during its youth, beats the Guinness Book of Record's oldest clam found in 1982 by about two centuries.

Another clam held in an Icelandic museum is believed to be 374-years-old, but it's not officially recognized by the Guinness Book of Records (I call that blatant ageism).

Interestingly, the clam will be able to give scientists a lot of clues not only on its growth and diet, but also on the environment it has lived in – not to mention on senescence, the aging process, itself.

When asked by reporters how it has made the transition from growing up in the 1600s to living in the 21st century, Ming's only comment was, "OMG DUMBLEDORE IS GAY!!"

Sudoku

		5	1			2		8
				7			4	9
7	8			2		6		5
	9		7	6	2			
	4	7				8	9	
			9	8	4		2	
9		8		3			5	1
5	7			1				
6		3			9	7		

> *"I have never let my schooling interfere with my education."*
> *-Mark Twain*

The CONGLOMERATE

November 30, 2007 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 11

Marjorie Lyons celebrates its 50th anninversary

Jenni Loer
Theatre Correspondent

Marjorie Lyons Playhouse is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary with a show that will commemorate the productions and the influential people who have made theatre at Centenary College an important part of the arts in Shreveport. The show features musical numbers and scenes from productions over the past fifty years performed by alumni, community performers, and students. John Matthews is the musical director and Joy Ratcliffe is the accompanist. The production will include special performances by Orlin Corey, Joe Graber, and Seva May, along with Paul Cambeilh and Jody Kirk Elliot, who will perform a revival of "The King and I," the ribbon-cutting production of 1957. Performances are Saturday, December 1, at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 2, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are complimentary; seats must be reserved in advance.

The box office is now open - please call (318) 869-5242 for ticket reservations.

Photo by Emily DeLatin.

INSIDE

Centenary continues the controversial mascot debate on pages 2-4

Attorney General race results on page 5

Exclusive look at Robinson Film Center on page 11

Voting for additional mascot is now open; explained by committee member

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

After years of debate and discussion, months of deliberation and Facebook campaigning, and weeks of rumor-mongering (the Centenary Swastikas? okay, maybe that was a letter we printed – it was funny!), decisive action has finally been taken toward introducing an additional Centenary mascot.

Voting is open from now until midnight on Sunday, December 2, on the Centenary website for all current students, faculty, staff, and alumni, and can be reached from the main page (www.centenary.edu). Even selected prospective students have been invited to vote, as they will be impacted by the outcome as well should they choose to come here.

Voters are presented with five different choices, accompanied by explanations (see side box) – and also have the choice of filling in a blank for an alternative mascot not listed. The mascot committee pared down an initial list of 48 ideas to this final list of five.

"[The 48] were submitted last year by students, alumni, faculty, and staff," said junior and committee member Dione Wrenn. "They were all compiled from what people were saying at the forum, by alumni sending in things – a couple of years ago, there was an idea of having a new mascot, and we put in ideas from that list as well."

The committee has been headed by junior Jared Ward and faculty co-chair Dr. Robert Prickett. The Student Government Association (SGA) formed a Mascot Inquiry committee last year, and this September, a more official President's Advisory Committee was created to follow through on the issue. The committee includes students, professors, and staff, and "people who had been working on this all along," according to Wrenn. The Departments of Education, English, Athletics, and Marketing are all represented, as well as members of SGA and certain sports teams. "I don't think it was biased in any way because we had several different people from different facets of the college looking at it – there were lots of opinions flying around," said Wrenn.

The committee narrowed down the 48 ideas to 20 at the first meeting. "We had to get rid of ridiculous ones, like the 'Dongs,'" she said. "The 'Preachers,' the 'Centenary Jazz' – these are just some different ones that were on the list." At least ten committee members were present for the process of elimination from 48 to 20, and "those who couldn't be there physically would email in what they wanted," said Wrenn.

These 20 ideas were then narrowed down even further to 10. "These were highly scrutinized" and this process occurred over two meetings, said Wrenn. "We agonized over them. We didn't want to take away something that was really good."

Those who are concerned about any arbitrary decision-making need not worry: the committee had set criteria to evaluate each idea. These included relevance to Centenary, whether or not many other schools already use the mascot, whether or not a school in our division has it, and if the idea is close to home.

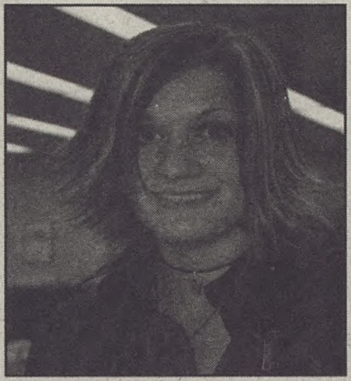
When asked why the Wolves (a popular idea circulating since last year) did not make it onto the final list, for example, Wrenn explained that the committee thought it to be too generic and overly used by other schools. Still, the committee has not ruled it out completely – if enough people enter it as their alternative choice, it could be a potential winner.

"That's what took the longest, when we got it down to ten," said Wrenn. "We were trying to figure out what would and wouldn't work."

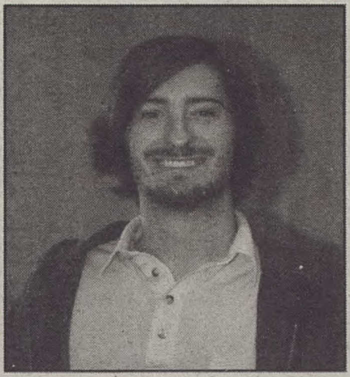
contd. on next page

Question of the Week

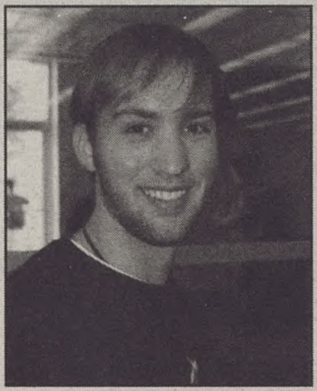
WHAT DID YOU STUFF IN YOUR TURKEY?



"BANANAS!"
-Rachel Johnson,
Senior

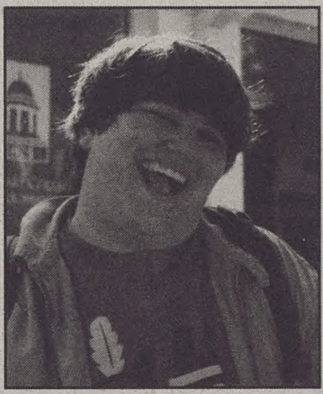


"Ooo... That's dirty."
-Dan Kersting,
Senior

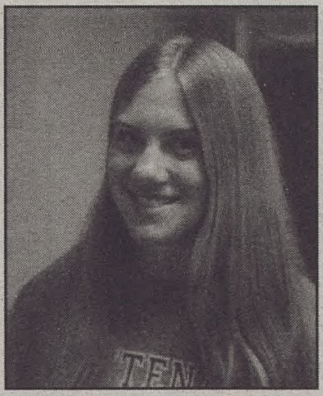


"Confetti."
-Scott Crawford,
Freshman

"Duck and a chicken."
-James Franz,
Senior



"We make dressing."
-Sam Timpa,
Junior



"Soylent green."
-Stephanie Schrieber,
Junior

Mascot voting, cont. from page 3

"We eliminated the Tornadoes, the Ironsides - there were too many racial connotations with that. We finally got to the five based on what the group gave the most points to – but it wasn't only based on our thoughts but what people said at the forum. We always had the best interests of the school and the students in mind this whole time, trying to think of what ethical or racial issues [a mascot] might have, if it's overused already, if it's too generic, if it's fierce enough."

While people continue to disagree over whether Fire Ants or Mud Cats are fiercer, the important step now is for all interested to vote. "[The Gent] is hard to embody; it's hard to have at the games – we want something that the students can rally behind, like the LSU Tigers," said Wrenn.

The committee plans to have the additional mascot unveiled by Homecoming in February.

The options and descriptions, as seen on the ballot on the website. It also includes a blank for alternative choices.

Explorers : Exploration is the important value embodied by the mascot Explorers, connecting the mascot nicely to the college's current branding statement, "Explore. Invent. Connect." Explorers are fearless adventurers and risk-takers, seeking new experiences through open-mindedness and independence. Picture a swashbuckling pirate, a frontier-opening pioneer, a high-tech scientist or a high-flying astronaut — or any and all of these incarnations. The Explorers mascot links athletics with academics by pointing back to our mission statement without being nerdy, silly, or campy; exploration is dignified. The Sioux City Explorers, a minor league baseball team, are often referred to simply as the X's, an interesting interpretation worth considering. Currently, there is only one NCAA Div. I school using the concept: the LaSalle University Explorers in Philadelphia.

Catahoulas : Catahoulas, also known as Catahoula Leopard Dogs, are the official state dogs of Louisiana. Catahoulas are usually merle colored animals with eyes of mismatched color — they are described variously as "solid," "strong," "independent," "physical," "highly intelligent," and "very noisy." In addition to the home state connection, the aforementioned attributes positively articulate the Centenary experience and the Centenary community. Though the idea of a dog as mascot (e.g., University of Georgia) may not be unique, the introduction of the Catahoulas offers many one-of-a-kind possibilities for portrayal (whether real and/or animated). The distinctiveness of the Centenary Catahoulas will be translated much like the popular University of Southern Illinois Salukis. There are no current Catahoula mascot references among NCAA or professional athletic teams.

Mud Cats : Flathead catfish, nicknamed the Mud Cats, are a North American freshwater variety of fish found in rivers throughout the Missouri and Mississippi River basins, including the Red River. These fish can grow to weigh up to 120 pounds and are typically found at the bottom of rivers, hence the "mud cat" moniker. There is a connection — although slight — to the already established Shreveport/Bossier community through S/B's popular minor league hockey team, the Mud Bugs. In the college world, the Mud Cats offer a unique mascot opportunity. So unique, in fact, that one can imagine a "celebrity" potential for the Mud Cats, much like the Banana Slugs of the University of Santa Cruz. The only references found so far are the Mississippi Mudcats (an arena football team) and the Carolina Mudcats (a minor league baseball team). Currently, there is no NCAA Div. I school with the Mud Cats as a mascot.

Fire Ants : Abundant in our geographical region, Fire Ants are small insects that really "pack a wallop" when they sting. These fierce, tenacious creatures rely on teamwork to accomplish their tasks and pop up where you may least expect. Just as their size parallels the smallness of our own student population, and their characteristics of perseverance and might model that of our Centenary community, the maroon color of their bodies will also help associate the Fire Ant with Centenary's dominant school color (also maroon). The Centenary Fire Ants will be a versatile mascot: cute and funny at one moment and fighting strong the next. An additional benefit to this mascot choice is the infrequent use of Fire Ants as college mascots. Currently, there is only one NCAA school, the University of South Carolina – Sumter Fire Ants in Sumter, South Carolina.

Squirrels : Squirrels are small creatures that are "clever", "persistent", "expert climbers" and "thrive in urban environments". Their abundance on campus and around Shreveport seem to make them a natural mascot possibility. General public opinion is favorable with such iconic popular images as Rocky from Rocky & Bullwinkle, Sandy Cheeks from SpongeBob Squarepants, and Hammy from Over the Hedge. However, don't let the cuddly images fool you. Squirrels have incredibly sharp teeth and, through gnawing-induced power outages, have brought down the power grids of stock markets, universities, and even cities. Currently, only Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia, utilizes the Squirrels mascot.

OPINIONS

The Gent mascot is integral to Centenary

Gentlemen:

As an alumnus of our fine college, and a strong devotee to the history surrounding our institution I would like to express my sincere disappointment in the decision to create a supplementary mascot for the school.

Two aspects drive this contempt. First, the history of The College of Louisiana, and second the history behind the implementation of the Gentlemen and Ladies mascot.

The College of Louisiana was founded for the purpose of providing the education for southern planters sons. In the southern tradition these men were often referred to as gentlemen. Southern traditions also reckon and represent its women as ladies. Thus it holds true to the college's roots that its mascot should be: Gentlemen and Ladies.

It is understood that a common disapproval for these same terms exists upon identical reasoning. Being that the college itself is far above reproach, and is equal and fair in the execution of its admissions criterion. The mascot Gentlemen and Ladies applies uniformly for all alumni and matriculated students.

Secondly, there is an interesting origin attached to why we are The Centenary Gentlemen and Ladies.

The original nickname, Old Ironsides, was given to the college by its competitors for reasons of the football team's inclination for significantly rough, unsportsmanlike play upon the gridiron. The school seeking to distance itself from this repute adopted the mascot of Gentlemen.

After the assumption of the Gentlemen mascot an announcer referred to the sportsmanship of the Centenary team and its students after a particular basketball game as: very gentlemanly. Thus showing that the school and its athletes had embraced the image of its mascot in being proper in all aspects life, beginning with their sportsmanship. Thus accomplishing the goal set forth by the school.

This rich heritage should not be tampered with in any manner. As matter of fact, I would hope that all alumni and current students would esteem themselves to the very meaning of our mascot. We should neither add nor take away from this astute and fitting decision made by our predecessors. I will always picture myself as a Gentleman of this fine institution, The Centenary College of Louisiana.

Respectfully yours,
Patrick D. Fertitta
The Centenary College of Louisiana, Class of 2003

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FEATURES

Frequently asked questions about mascot voting

taken from http://www.centenary.edu/mascot/faq

1. Why is Centenary College adding a mascot to the school?

The addition of the mascot has been a student driven initiative. In recent years, Centenary has examined the role and impact of the mascot through informal SGA student/ faculty forums, alumni surveys and questionnaires, the campus diversity climate assessment and so on. At the end of last school year, a Mascot Inquiry committee was formed by SGA to discuss this ongoing issue. The students have been asking for a mascot that inspires enthusiasm. We respect the student's request for the addition of a mascot for the school and want to create an identity that embodies our history, tradition and uniqueness.

Students have clearly voiced a desire for a "fun" mascot, one that can entertain during sports and campus events.

2. What is the difference between a nickname and a mascot?

The nickname is the literary identification of a team, school, or organization in the form of word, such as the "Ladies" and "Gents." A mascot is a three-dimensional interpretation of the nickname, usually a visual depiction of the word.

(Technically, a nickname is the title applied to a team. A mascot is the symbol used by that team.)

3. Will the nickname "Ladies" and "Gents" change with the addition of the mascot?

No. We are adding a mascot to the school to complement the nicknames "Ladies" and "Gents."

4. Has the nickname been changed before or has there been a mascot in the past?

The changing of the school's nickname is not without precedent. Centenary College was once home to a nationally-ranked football team that spent many seasons undefeated, with wins over teams such as Texas A&M University and LSU. Prior to the football program at the college, Centenary was known as the "Ironsides." As a football powerhouse, the college had a reputation as a fearsome and powerful team with a penchant for playing rough. To clean up their image, they selected the "Gentleman" nickname.

The school has had a mascot in the past and it was "The Gent."

The addition of a new mascot is consistent with the opinions expressed during the diversity assessment we conducted in the spring. The addition of a new mascot will hopefully act as a unifying force across campus, not only in gender and ethnicity, but also among groups such as athletes, music students and Greeks. While conscious of the need to preserve tradition, the commission is aware of the desire of our Centenary community members for a mascot they can rally around and support. In the interest of promoting college pride and diversity, we want to give our students, faculty, alumni and community members a mascot they could rally behind during our Division I athletic events.

5. How did Centenary become known as the Gents?

Centenary became known as the Gentlemen in the fall of 1921 by then-Centenary President George Sexton when he sat the football team down before a game and told the players, ...from now on, you will all act like Gentlemen. In a previous game, the football team had been in a fight. The nickname has stuck ever since, and it was natural to call the women's teams the Ladies when the school began women's sports.

6. Who will select the new mascot?

It is very important that the college stakeholders—the students, faculty, staff and alumni—have the opportunity to voice their opinions and be part of the voting process. That is why they are the only ones, along with a select number of prospective students that will have the special opportunity to vote for this new mascot.

7. Who can vote for the mascot?

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and selected prospective students

8. When will voting begin and how do you cast a vote?

We are actually conducting on-line voting beginning November 26 at 12:01 a.m. until midnight December 2. There has been a lot of buzz about this, and we are anticipating a great on-line turn out to select our new mascot. A link for the voting will be available on the mascot page.

Alumni who do not have online access they may contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 318.869.5115 for assistance during the election period.

9. What will happen after the votes have been tallied?

Once the votes have been tallied, the Advisory Committee will send a recommendation to the President of the College for approval.

10. When will the mascot be revealed?

We are looking forward to announcing the winning mascot as soon as possible. There will be a lot of behind-the-scenes work once the mascot has been selected. Our goal is to have all the votes tallied and a recommendation to the President by mid-December. The official in person" introduction of the mascot will be during Centennial Celebration and Homecoming Week in mid February 2008.

11. What was the process, how were mascot choices narrowed down and how do they tie into the school's history/ this area?

In early September, a President's Advisory Committee was formed, comprised of students, staff, faculty and alumni so that all interests were represented during the selection process. They analyzed, researched and discussed more than 40 different mascot ideas that had been proposed over the years. The process is consistent with Centenary's emphasis on creative thinking and solutions-based results. The committee narrowed the list down using such factors as perception of mascot idea, extension of campus identity, marketing of mascot, uniqueness, etc. to FIVE that will be voted on.

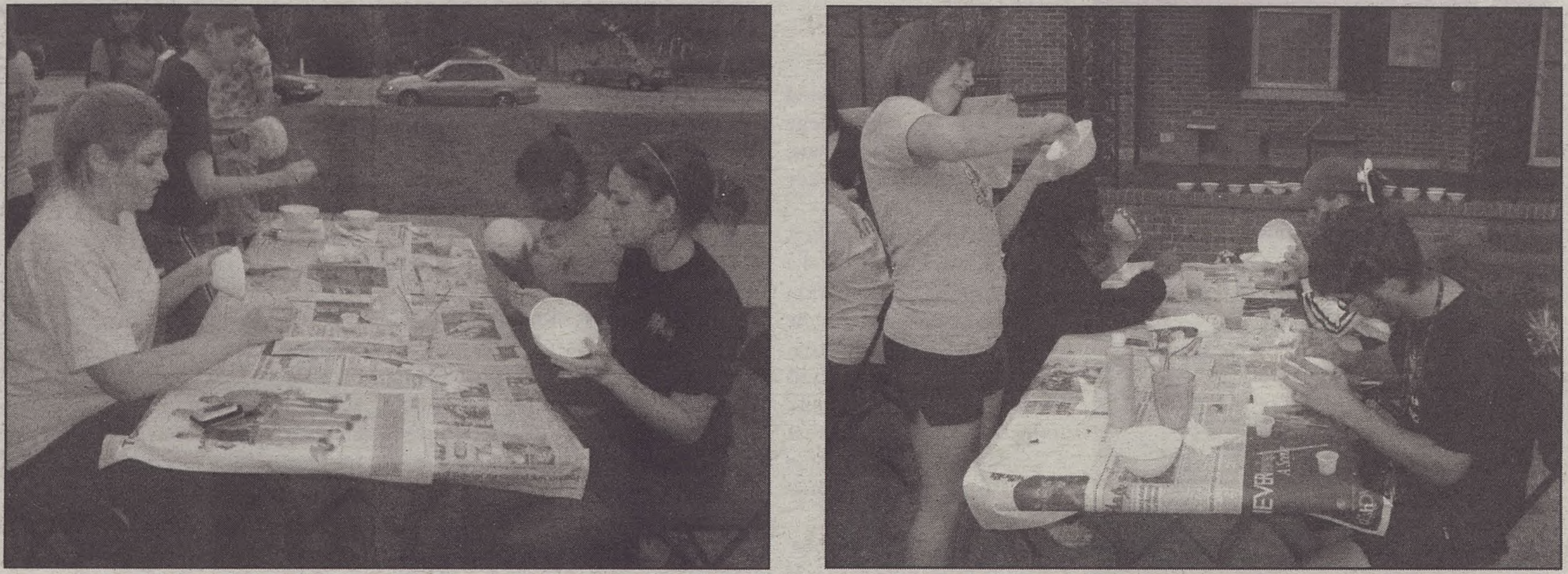
12. When will there be Centenary items available with this additional mascot?

A special $5 Maroon Mascot Mystery T-shirt is available for purchase at the Centenary bookstore the week of November 26th! Everyone is encouraged to purchase this and wear it to create a Wall of Maroon during the Centenary basketball double header at the CenturyTel Center December 1st. Purchase of this T-shirt will entitle you to be among the first to pre-order Mascot Wear. Pre-orders will be taken until December 17th via the Centenary bookstore. For additional information about these items please contact the bookstore at 318-869-5278.

13. What if my question is not covered in this FAQ?

If you have another question about the mascot issue beyond what is covered here, you can contact Rick DelaHaya, Director of Marketing and Communications, at 318-869-5073 or rdelahaya@centenary.edu.

Centenary students give back to the community



Centenary students participate in the "Super Bowl," the residence life-based program in which ceramic bowls were painted for an auction by the Food Bank. The Bank's auction will raise money for their organization. Photos by Mindy McKoin.

James "Buddy" Caldwell is elected Louisiana State Attorney-General

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

November 17 marked the date for the general election that determined the races undecided by the October 20 primary election. The runoff races were for Attorney General and for the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

Democrat James D. "Buddy" Caldwell was elected as Attorney General, a four-year term that will start January 14.

Caldwell, a veteran district attorney with almost 30 years of experience, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Louisiana District Attorney's Association in 1983, and served on that board an unprecedented 13 years in a row until 1996. He is the only known official in the state of Louisiana to have been invited to speak on relevant matters to justices of the peace and constables for 20 years in a row.

Caldwell has achieved a 99% conviction rate over the past 28 years, and he holds the highest per capita collection rate for back child support in the State. Caldwell's record enabled him to collect a multitude of endorsements from such organizations as the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, the Louisiana Sheriff's Association, and the Alliance for Good Government.

It was unsurprising that this race was a landslide runoff election--Caldwell received 67% of the vote compared to Republican Royal Alexander, who received 33%.

As Attorney General, Caldwell's staff of over 500 employees will represent state agencies and the public at large in all civil matters. In addition to handling criminal appeals, he will also have the ability to investigate, order subpoenas, and make arrests.

The winner for District 5 of the BESE was Democrat Keith Guice, who in a close race won 52% of the vote compared to Republican Ruth Ulrich, who received 48%.

Sexton Hall organizes food drive through November

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

According to a 2001 United States Department of Agriculture report, thirty-three million people in the United States don't have access to enough food to meet their basic needs. Of these thirty-three million people, twelve million are children and two and a half million are elderly. The 2001 Hunger Study also noted that one in four households served by the America's Second Harvest network did not eat for an entire day because they could not afford it.

Frustrated by these startling statistics, Mindy McKoin, a Sexton Hall Resident Assistant, began organizing a food drive for the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana.

"We have tried to do several things with fundraising, but it doesn't go over very well with the Centenary community. People hear about it and want to do it but forget or can't fit it into their schedules," said McKoin.

In order to combat the forgetfulness and apathy of the Centenary community, McKoin, in conjunction with the Food Bank, hosted the "Super Bowl," which was a residence life-based program that provided ceramic bowls for students to paint.

The bowls will later be auctioned off by the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana in order to raise money for their organization. "The bowls gave creative students a chance to use their creativity and to give back to the community. It also made them aware of the food drive," said McKoin.

Students lacking creative talent can also participate in the food drive by donating non-perishable food goods. Foods that are in a high demand at the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana include peanut butter, hearty soups, canned meats, crackers, instant oatmeal, and rice.

Foods can be donated in donation boxes located outside of the doors of all resident assistants' rooms. The food drive ends on November 30, 2007.

New Facebook features raise privacy issues

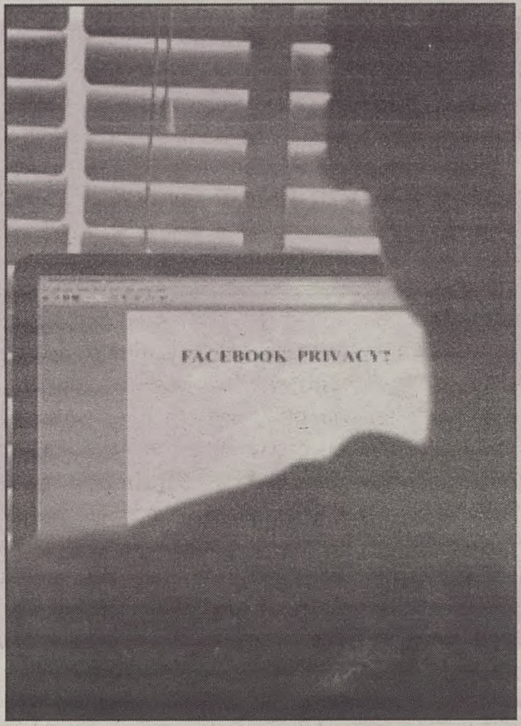


Photo by Emily DeLatin.

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

Since Facebook opened up its site to non-college networks, many issues have arisen about its privacy policy.

Accordingtothispolicy, Facebook was built to "make it easy to share information with your friends and people around you"; the creators also promise that the default privacy settings would limit the information that is displayed on your profile to those persons in your network.

The two core principles of said privacy are that "you should have control over your personal information and you should have access to the information others want to share."

New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo has gone so far as to subpoena the social networking site and investigate its safety and privacy measures.

Still, the question remains, should the personal profiles on the site remain private or not?

Many people believe that, since Facebook has opened its doors to all people with an email address, anyone can become a member now, thus turning this site into another MySpace.

According to Michael Hussey, founder and CEO of PeekYou.com, if Facebook keeps heading in this direction, it is likely that more fake profiles will pop up and litter the bandwidth with spam.

A new feature with Facebook is its outside search capability. A person can look up your name without having to have an account to find you on this site, which can lead to many stalker-like problems that no one wants to have to deal with.

To make sure that you cannot be found through this feature, you have to go into your settings and manually change the search function. Then the person searching will have to have an account to see full results, but they will be able to view your profile if it is not set to private or friends only.

It does open up doors to unwanted people finding you on Facebook, who can simply set up their own accounts (since it is no longer just college student-friendly) and watch your every move.

Concern still surrounds the wording of the privacy policy on Facebook. It is said to be a "safe" social networking site where people can talk about private things without someone else interfering. With all of these new features and changes, it is no wonder some people are calling the website "Stalkbook" (as opposed to "Stalkerspace" for MySpace).

Still, the question lingers: is Facebook really safe, or is it becoming another MySpace, filled with spam and the urge to add as many friends as possible?

Centenary holds forum on understanding global climate change

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

The Centenary Environmental Association hosted a forum entitled "When Science and Politics Collide: Understanding Global Climate Change" on Thursday, November 15.

ACS faculty fellow Dr. Jeanne Hamming and ACS Environmental Interns Sarah Eich and Dan Kersting spoke to the community based on Sarah Eich's recent attendance of an international summit on Global Climate Change sponsored by ATHGO International.

ATHGO (Alliance Toward Harnessing Global Opportunities) is a non-profit organization that is a member of the United Nations Global Compact. At the summit, held in New York City, Eich had the opportunity to hear UN representatives from several nations discuss what they are doing to mitigate global warming. At the forum, Eich offered an overview of her experience. After that, Dr. Hamming talked about some issues related to global climate change and how politics and science are often at odds regarding the severity of the problem.

Dr. Hamming also discussed what the public can do about this problem.

Other topics that were covered include Al Gore's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," and President Bush's decision to support E85 initiatives rather than hybrid engine technologies in the automotive industry. Al Gore recently won a Nobel Prize for his work in raising international awareness about environmental problems.

Dan Kersting concluded by talking about what the community can do to get involved. The Centenary Environmental Association holds meetings every Tuesday at 5 p.m. in the Reading Room on the 3rd floor of Jackson Hall.

Theyplanspeakingengagements with environmental themes and Earth Day events.

The CEA also raises money to bring solar energy to campus, and encourages recycling. For more information, please contact Dr. Hamming of the English Department at jhamming@centenary.edu.

Advice from Allison: On party-going, roommates, and online romance

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

Theopinionsandideasexpressed by this article do not in any way reflect those of Centenary College, the Conglomerate, or the writer herself. In fact, these ideas probably don't express any intelligently informed opinions anyway.

Dear Allison,

I can't find a date to my sorority's upcoming theme party. I have a lot of guy friends, but they're either busy that weekend or someone else is already taking them.

What's the best way to find guys to take to parties?

-Single Senior

Dear Single,

Sometimes Centenary College can seem a bit like high school. The days of asking boys to dances have not left us.

The only difference is that now we can drive our own vehicles and you might have your own apartment to go back to. Asking guys to parties has not gotten any easier, however.

The best way to get a guy to agree to go to a party with you is to find someone who doesn't get a whole lot of action. Mickle Hall is the best place to find them.

It doesn't matter if they're unattractive. At least you won't be rejected. If anyone asks about your choice of date, just tell them that he has a lot of money.

Dear Allison,

My girlfriend and I don't get a lot of alone time together. My roommate never leaves the room and we don't have anywhere to have private time. What should I do?

-Frustrated Freshman

contd. on next page

Sex and the Centenary: Cohabitation after college (part one)

Southern Elle
Staff Writer

As several of my friends prepare for life after college, discussions of girlfriends, boyfriends, and fiancées inevitably arise. It seems like almost all of them are planning to live with their significant others after graduation (or even before). Having been there, done that, and gotten my t-shirt stolen by my girlfriend who "borrows" my clothes, I almost want to warn them. I too dreamed about falling asleep with my lover every night, choosing and decorating a home together, and occasionally screwing on the dining room table in the middle of the afternoon. But in all honesty, I had no clue what the hell I was in for. I missed the "You're In Too Deep and About to Drown" warning sign. My dreams definitely didn't include cleaning a litter box, arguing over who would clean toilets and dishes, or sexual frustration.

My girlfriend and I were too caught up with all the fun, exciting aspects of living together that we never discussed all the nasty, difficult parts. Nights and weekends at each other's respective living quarters never prepared me for this. The first two months were rough. We hit some hellish spots. But after a lot of struggling (and some crash-course learning), life sharing an apartment (and a bed, a room, a cat, a closet, and too much crap) has gotten a lot easier. Sure, we still fight sometimes, but we've gotten over slamming doors and screaming… and moved toward painting ornaments and picking out a tree together (I know – you could gag on the cuteness factor).

So, I chatted with some friends about life as a cohabiting couple, and came up with some things to think about (and TALK ABOUT!) before cosigning a lease. You can't avoid every struggle and fight – but it's worth taking a break from the dream before reality slaps you in the face.

Finances. If you thought budgeting to buy Christmas gifts was difficult, try juggling rent, utilities, groceries, and all the stuff you forget you need. Start with the big stuff. How much can you afford to spend on bills per month? Will you split rent and utilities equally or will the person who makes more pay more of the share? Will you co-sign a lease? Will you get a joint bank account? Who will pay for groceries and other items like shampoo, toilet paper, and dish soap? If one of you loses a job or changes jobs, how will you handle the change? If you are in graduate school, how much will you take out in loans to cover your living expenses? What if you both are in school? Have you thought about taking on a roommate to lower costs? How does your cost of living compare to your partner's – do you spend money easily, while your partner saves every penny? How will that affect your budget and bills? Who will pay startup costs – like buying furniture, buying dishes, paying utility deposits, etc.? Are you taking on your car insurance, health insurance, cell phone bill, and rent at the same time? If you can't pay everything, what goes first? How can you cut corners to budget?

Housework. Face it: You probably don't have the cash to pay someone else to do it, and the wonderful housekeepers from Centenary's dorms don't make house visits. How will you survive? Do you clean your boyfriend's dorm room every time you stop by? If so, living together could be a perpetuation of his leaving dirty dishes everywhere for you to pick up. Does your boyfriend steer clear of your bed because the sheets haven't been washed in months? He might not appreciate your dirty clothes on the bedroom floor when he's living there, too. Who will handle cleaning the kitchen and the bathroom? Who will do laundry (especially if you are stuck watching it turn at the laundromat for two hours)? Does your partner expect you will take care of the house?

Does this sound like it could be familiar: Her: "He doesn't do any housework, so I'm going to be passive aggressive and just pout until he does more" and Him: "Why is she so pushy? She is always whining about housework, and I don't want to be around her!" You get it. Don't perpetuate the worst heterosexual stereotype in history.

Space. When my girlfriend and I first mentioned cohabitation, we agreed we needed two bedrooms. When we need to just chill, alone, with two bedrooms we could each close a door and have some space. Well… money and circumstances destroyed that wonderful plan. We are still struggling to deal with the one bedroom situation; at least having two living rooms helps. When you start shopping for a place, how big should it be? Will you have a mental breakdown living in a studio? What about a one bedroom? Will you share a car? When you need a break from coupledom, do you have a place to go and the transportation to get there? Do you have a couch to sleep on in case you want a separate bed for a night? Trust me, you don't want to feel like you're living in a prison cell.

And while we're on the subject of "Space"… it's a good time to talk about those wonderful binding contracts known as "leases." Just like relationships, getting into a lease is simple… and getting out of one early can be more messy than the car your girlfriend wrecked when you dumped her via text message. My situation worked out well; my roommate and I co-signed, so my girlfriend can get out if we ever have problems. Our lease also allows us to bail early, too, as long as we give a month's written notice and forego the deposit. But most leases aren't as flexible as mine. You need to consider… do you want a six-month or a twelve-month lease? If you break up, can you get out? Will vacating the lease hurt your credit rating or leave a permanent mark on your credit? Are the two of you signing for something even more permanent, like a car note, a house note, a cell phone contract, or other big ticket items like furniture? What happens if you break up?

…and that's only the beginning. Next article, I'll delve into two more cohabitation issues: Life After Sex (or…how to handle sex-less cohabitation) and Cohabitation Before Marriage. Because just when you thought college life was difficult, it turns out there's so much your degree didn't begin to prepare you for…

Advice from Allison, cont. from page 6 - pesky roommates and romance

Dear Frustrated,

Those pesky roommates always seem to get in the way. Why must they always get in the way of our lives?

Sometimes in these situations you must get a bit creative with where you and your girlfriend spend alone time.

Maybe drive out to the Duck Pond one afternoon for a nice picnic. If you need even more privacy, I hear the gazebo and the laundry room in James are great places to spend alone time.

Dear Allison,

I'm in a relationship with a girl right now but I met someone else online. If I tell this girl that I have a girlfriend and she is okay with it, does that make it any more acceptable if we "both know" and keep it a secret?

- Internet Infidelity

Dear Infidelity,

Cheating on your girlfriend on the Internet is completely different from cheating on her in real life. I mean, how far can you possibly go with emoticons?

If the online girl is fine with the fact that you have a real-life girlfriend, then it can't possibly be unacceptable. What your girlfriend doesn't know can't hurt her.

But, if you're afraid of losing your real girlfriend when she finds out about the online girl, remember that it's quite difficult to make out with a computer.

Do you have a problem and need Allison's help? Send your issues to Campus Box 202 or e-mail Allison at acormier@centenary.edu.

Meet Laëtitia Caloone, a Master's-seeking student of business from Lille, France

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

Conglomerate: Hi, could you introduce yourself to the other students?

Laëtitia: My name is Laëtitia Caloone and I'm French. I'm from Lille in the north of France. I'm 21.

Congo: That's a good age to be in the United States.

Laëtitia: Yes! I'm glad to be 21.

Congo: What's your major?

Laëtitia: I just graduated in May, so I have my "license," and now I will begin my Master's of international tourism for business management.

Congo: How long are you staying at Centenary?

Laëtitia: I'm staying here for a year.

Congo: What do you like the most and the least about living in France?

Laëtitia: I think I like everything. I mean, we can drink, we can go out… I guess I don't like the weather in the north. But sometimes I like it. sometimes I miss it when I'm here because I've lived in the north all of my life.

Congo: Have you been abroad before?

Laëtitia: I was lucky because I traveled a lot with my family. Also, through a program at my school, I studied for two weeks in England and in the Czech Republic. So, I traveled a lot.

Congo: Why did you choose Centenary?

Laëtitia: I didn't (she laughs). I said I wanted to go to the United States and to teach French at the same time, and there are maybe four places you can go in the United States where you can teach French. My advisor said, "Well, you can go to Louisiana," and I was happy because I wanted to travel to Louisiana. So, I said, "Yes, why not."

Congo: What's your opinion of Centenary so far?

Laëtitia: It's good, it's really different from my country. I like this idea of campus, it's like a little world in a big city. But I don't like the fact that we have to spend our evenings studying. We don't in France. We only have to study for finals.

Congo: What's your favorite American food?

Laëtitia: I didn't have an opportunity to try good American food yet, so I can't say. I've only eaten at the caf and at Chinese restaurants. I think I like cookies and brownies, though.

Congo: What surprised you the most about the United States? Laëtitia: Well, we see the United States in movies and everything, so I wasn't really surprised. I expected it to be like that.

Congo: What do you like to do in your spare time?

Laëtitia: I like to play volleyball, to swim, just to chill with my friends. And I like to go to the center of Lille, where all the shops and cool places are. You can go there for four hours and you will find something to do the whole time.

Congo: What's your favorite word in English?

Laëtitia: I like to say "it sucks!" and "crap!" I like when Eli [her roommate] says that.

Congo: If your life were a musical, what would be your theme song?

Laëtitia: A song from "Moulin Rouge, called "One Day I'll Fly Away."

Congo: Do you have any tips for students who are going to study in France?

Laëtitia: You just have to be open-minded because it's very different there. And just to enjoy it because it will be really fun for you. You will not spend all your time in books, but you will have a lot of things to do. And don't go out too late! Do as much as you can do while you're there.

Congo: Would you like to add anything at the end?

Laëtitia: Yes. I want to thank April Valentine [Director of Intercultural Affairs] because she helped me a lot when I arrived here and had a lot of problems. Everything was well-organized in the International Office when we all arrived. It's not easy for us to arrive here and not know anybody – I didn't know the other French girl and it was a new place for me. Also, you don't have your family and I had some difficulties during the first weeks. So, thank you for helping me. I didn't expect American people to do all of that.

Photo by Mindy McKoin.

The Conglomerate presents a European's first impressions of Shreveport

Jonathan Hedley
Contributing Writer

So I finally touched down in Shreveport Louisiana last Friday night after a 24-hour journey from Rome covering 7000 miles, three separate flights and two awful movies, in desperate need of a shower, a bite to eat, and a nice cold beer.

As my second of three planes began its descent into Memphis and I gazed down upon America for the first time in my life, the song 'Kids of America' by Kim Wilde came through the headphones and I felt a smile involuntarily spreading across my face. It was a real Hollywood moment. In a few minutes I would be walking in Memphis. I'm gonna go to diners, chew tobacco, eat twinkies, do a drive-by (whatever that is); I'm gonna say 'Get off of your horse and fight like a man' and I just have to buy one of those t-shirts that say 'F**k you, I'm from Texas'. What would the land that produced John Wayne, Elvis and Britney Spears hold for me? I briefly thought of John Lennon and wondered what the probability was of getting shot, but then put the thought out of my head.

I have to admit, my initial excitement at touching down on American soil was all but vanquished by the experience of immigration and security at Memphis, but I was soon cheered up when I managed to befriend just about everyone sitting within a 3 metre radius on my connecting flight to Shreve. When the air-hostess asked me to say 'tomato' I finally felt welcome. ('Aw aah just love yo accent – don't yall just love his accent!')

So I finally got my cigarette after waiting for my luggage out in the public area of Shreve Airport where I saw a guy who looked just like the Nutty Professor in that Eddie Murphy movie. Turned out he was the mayor.

I went to a chain restaurant that night where I tried pumpkin spice beer – the only beer in the place that didn't have 'light' in the name (I like full fat beers, I'm European) and got to spend my first crispy dollars. Shopping the next day in a shop the size of some towns in Italy was an experience, as was getting asked for ID twice in 12 hours (I'm 28!), once just to get into a Thrifty store! But my most touristy moments have been in the passenger seat of cars that are bigger than my old bedroom, seeing the Circle K (a-la Bill and Ted) and Taco Bell (Demolition Man), and sitting in a booth by the window in a diner eating a muffaletta (every movie that's ever been made).

cont. on next page

British Studies at Oxford: a fun mix of learning and travel

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

If you're trying to figure out what to do this summer, think about spending a month in Britain!

"British Studies At Oxford" is a summer study abroad program organized through Associated Colleges of the South, of which Centenary is a member. It is held in St. John's College, which the brochure calls "one of the most beautiful and distinguished of Oxford University's constituent colleges."

This aim of this summer course is "to create each year a rich and richly integrated program of high academic value, full of excitement and stimulation, as well as being enjoyable and utterly memorable."

"British Studies At Oxford," held from June 29 until August 5, is based on two seminars that are picked by the student and that relate to the main theme.

This year's subject is "Britain in the Ages of Enlightenment, Revolution, and Romanticism," so students can choose from seminars such as "Mind the Gap! Satire in Eighteenth-Century Britain," "British Responses to the American and French Revolutions," and "Frankenstein Meets Snow White: Cross-currents in British and German Romanticism."

A student may also apply to take an additional course, though he or she must be prepared to pay extra for these hours. The cost of the program is $7,450, which includes room and board, tuition and a number of excursions, as well as a health insurance plan.

Throughout the program, each of the seminars meets for a total of 18 hours, and is accompanied by "study excursions," as well as workshops, lectures, recitals and concerts. Students work in groups of about 12, but the program brochure explains that "teaching and learning are carried out continuously," such as "over meals, on social occasions, on the excursions and study visits."

Margaret McDonald, Centenary student who spent one of her summers with British Studies, has told the Conglomerate in an e-mail interview that while she was at St. John's College, her group "only had class four days a week, so [they] could travel on the weekends."

The weekend excursions were, in fact, one the her favorite parts of the whole experience. She not only got to see Britain, but also went to Belgium in her free time and even visited some filming locations of the "Harry Potter" movies.

Overall, Ms. McDonald believes the Oxford program to be "a wonderful way to mix studying with traveling."

Centenary's Director of Intercultural Affairs, April Valentine, is encouraging anyone interested in "British Studies At Oxford" to stop by her office and talk to her about it (though you might want to schedule an appointment first).

She points out that "there is a scholarship available" and that "it is possible for a student to receive module credit." In order for this to happen, however, the student must first consult with Ms. Valentine to see which seminars can count as module credits.

Although Ms. Valentine has set a suggested campus application deadline for Nov. 15, the program itself has no formal deadline and students who are interested are still welcome to apply.

It must be pointed out, however, that the spots fill up rather quickly, so it is strongly recommended that those interested in the program see Ms. Valentine as soon as possible.

Ms. McDonald urges all students to look into "British Studies At Oxford," which she calls "one of [her] favorite college experiences." She especially recommends it to students who, like her, "[want] to study abroad," but do not want to "be away from Centenary for a whole semester."

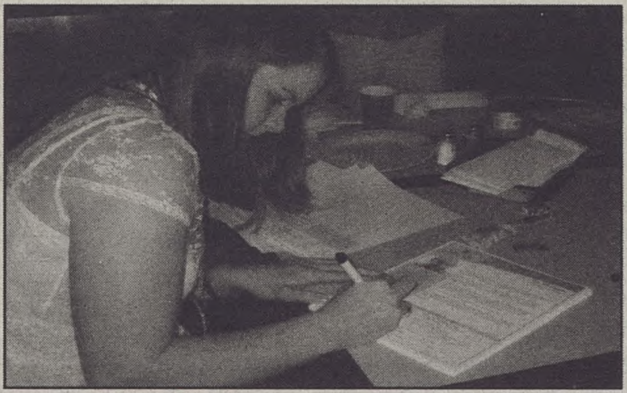
To contact April Valentine for further information, e-mail her at avalenti@centenary.edu or stop by the Intercultural Affairs Office (2910 Building, across the street from Main Admissions).

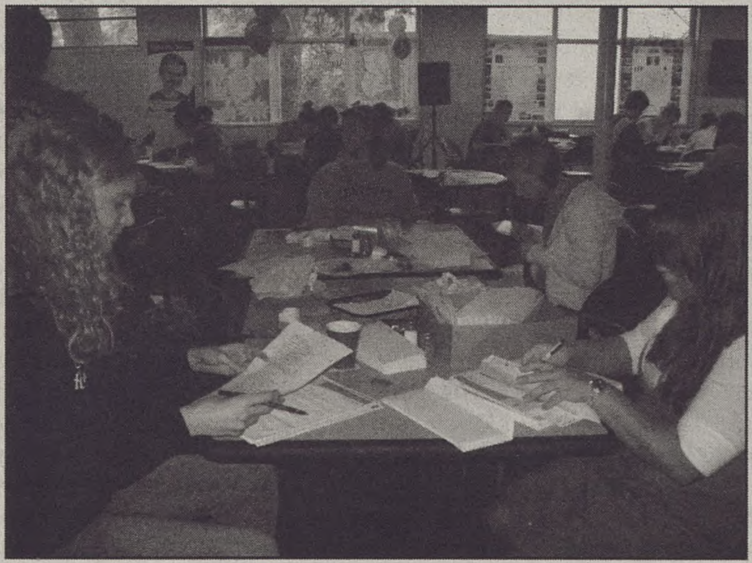
European impressions of Shreveport, cont. from pg. 8

One thing that impresses me very much is all the things that go on at Centenary College – the paper, the radio station, safe sex week, all the different student-run bodies, the extra curricular activities – nothing like that exists where I went to school, there was no pride in the school you went to, you just did your lessons then left, that was it, and you got out as quick as possible. The Honour Council – haha! Haven't you guys ever heard of corruption? Students checking on other students cheating, next you'll have prisoners working as prison guards! These concepts are all but impossible to imagine in Europe.

I sometimes imagine America as a young blond Adonis, idealistic, flexing his bronzed muscles in the Californian sun to impress the chicks (and bully the skinny kids) while the pot bellied, slightly grey haired old men of Europe look on.

More America coming up soon - watch this space!





top: Jessica Martin writes letters as part of the Up 'Til Dawn effort.
below: Several other Centenary students participated as well in order to raise money for St. Jude's Research Hospital.

Photos by Mindy McKoin.

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

Up 'Til Dawn hosted a letter writing campaign Friday, November 9th, in order to benefit St. Jude's Hospital.

Teams of up to six people participated by bringing 50 addresses to send the letters to. Door prizes such as a video iPod were given away. Up 'Til Dawn is a fundraising program that supports St. Jude's Research Hospital. The money they raise helps with patient treatment.

St. Jude's is the first institution founded solely for conducting clinical research for childhood diseases. The hospital's daily operating costs of over $1 million is primarily funded through public contributions. For more information about this organization, please contact Mary Walter at mwalter@centenary.edu.

A&E

Google teams up with MySpace to compete with Facebook

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

Google Inc. has teamed up with Myspace to form a social networking site that could rival Facebook's rapid growth. "Google is trying to capture the hearts and minds of developers who have been smitten with the Facebook platform since the summer," said Gartner analyst Ray Valdes of the deal's expected impact to Facebook.

The deal puts Google in partnership with the largest social networking service. Myspace had more than twice the number of unique visitors in September compared with Facebook, though Facebook's growth rate has been much higher.

The news comes just a week after Facebook landed a $240 million investment from Microsoft Corp., in a deal that valued the overall company at around $15 billion. Rumors had Google also making an attempt to invest in Facebook, though the company never confirmed it. The Google/Myspace networking site, the OpenSocial consortium, will also include other network providers, including Friendster, LinkedIn, and Plaxo.

Winter movie preview: Heroes from Beowulf to Denzel

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Originally, this was supposed to be an article about awards season, but since most of us won't have the opportunity to see any of the award-worthy movies until late January or early February, I decided to change it into an article about some upcoming movies that deserve your attention.

*Note: These are all movies that I am dying to see, so this may not reflect your list of anticipated releases.

November:

In this month, we have several high-profile movies that look to be very entertaining. Last week the animated version of "Beowulf" was released. I know that the trailers have been a little lackluster and very similar to the "300" trailers that came out a year ago, but the word on this movie is that it is extremely entertaining and proves that animation can be badass. If you have the chance to see this in IMAX 3-D, do so.

Another movie that had me itching with excitement is "No Country for Old Men." This movie is from the Coen Brothers ("O Brother, Where Art Thou?" and "Fargo") and already it is receiving buzz that it will be a major Oscar contender. Plus, the movie is supposed to have the greatest and scariest villain since Hannibal Lector. "No Country for Old Men" opened on November 21.

November 21 also saw the opening of "The Mist." Filmed here locally, we have a story written by Stephen King and directed by Frank Darabont ("The Shawshank Redemption"). It is about a mist that covers a town and forces people to hide in a grocery store while monsters hiding in the mist try to attack them. Apparently this movie is supposed to be scary as hell, with one of the most disturbing endings in a long time. Definitely worth being excited about.

December:

To let my geek side out for a minute, we have "The Golden Compass" coming out on December 7. I loved the book series "His Dark Materials" and this looks like it might actually be a good adaptation of the series, though I have heard that some of the more controversial elements have been lessened in the movie. Anyway, the trailers look amazing and the cast is great, so naturally I'm pumped.

"I Am Legend" is Will Smith's next big action movie. The trailers have been looking really cool, so I am a little excited about this one. Based on the book by Richard Matheson (the guy who inspired Stephen King), this movie is about a man who somehow survives a plague which turns everyone on Earth into vampires. Plus, the movie is more than likely going to have a trailer for "The Dark Knight" attached, so that should be more than enough incentive to see it.

In limited release, there will also be "Juno," which is getting awesome reviews and looks to be really funny, and "Youth Without Youth," which is the first film by Francis Ford Coppola (The Godfather trilogy) in over ten years.

The last week of December has some movies that I will definitely see. First is "National Treasure: Book of Secrets." I know that some of you just rolled your eyes, but I actually enjoyed the first one and the second one looks to be just as much fun.

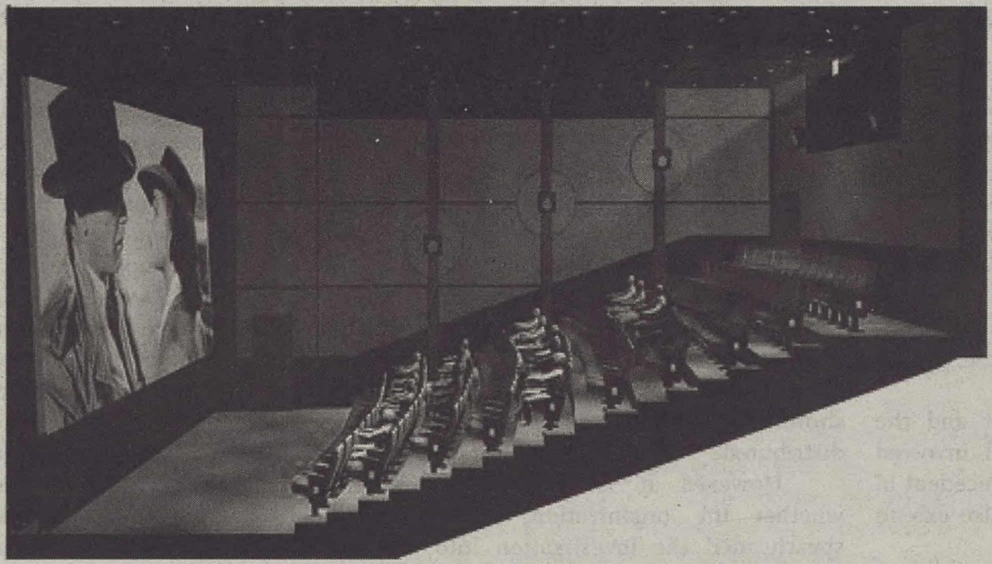
However, the real surprise for me is "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street." Why do you ask? It is Tim Burton and Johnny Depp - 'nuff said. Plus, the trailers look absolutely amazing, and the film promises lots of dark humor and some good music. This is one of my most anticipated movies, which is kind of funny since I don't usually like musicals.

There is also "The Great Debaters," which is the Denzel Washington movie that was filmed around the area. The story sounds good and Washington has never made a bad movie (at least not that I am aware of), so I will check it out when it is released on December 28.

Also on December 28, but in limited release, sadly, is "There Will Be Blood." The buzz on this movie is astronomical, with some even calling it a movie that will be listed with "Citizen Kane," "Casablanca," and "The Godfather" within a few years. That is some powerful buzz, but it piques my interest. Plus, the trailer ain't too bad either.

Anyway, these are the movies that have me excited, which probably means that you should be excited for them too. Check them out when they're released before next semester.

Robinson Film Center to bring much-needed culture to Shreveport



Jon Schleuss
Staff Writer

Shreveport sucks. There's no culture, there's no real connection between communities, shopping centers are springing up everywhere, and the place is becoming a 40-something, shoe-shopping, nightmare town. The only reason I'm sticking around is because it's changing (oh yeah, and that school thing). Right now, there's a resurgence of art coming back to the city. A city, I hope, that's growing.

One part of this growing culture is the film industry. Louisiana's number three in that arena, just behind New York and California. There's the buzz, the business, but where the heck is the culture? I'll tell you; it's the Robinson Film Center, opening on a [Texas] street near you.

I put on a hard hat to tour the Robinson Film Center construction site a few weeks back and spoke to Centenary alum Chris Jay, the Robinson's Program Director. Chris lays out the schedule for the Robinson Film Center. Currently he's bringing one film a month to Shreveport via the Regal Cinemas in Bossier. Once the center opens, he'll be programming all the shows, month-to-month, week-to-week, and day-to-day. He's bringing in the stuff Shreveport doesn't have, the independent and foreign film: viva la indie ciné!

Indie, or independent, films don't really exist in Shreveport.

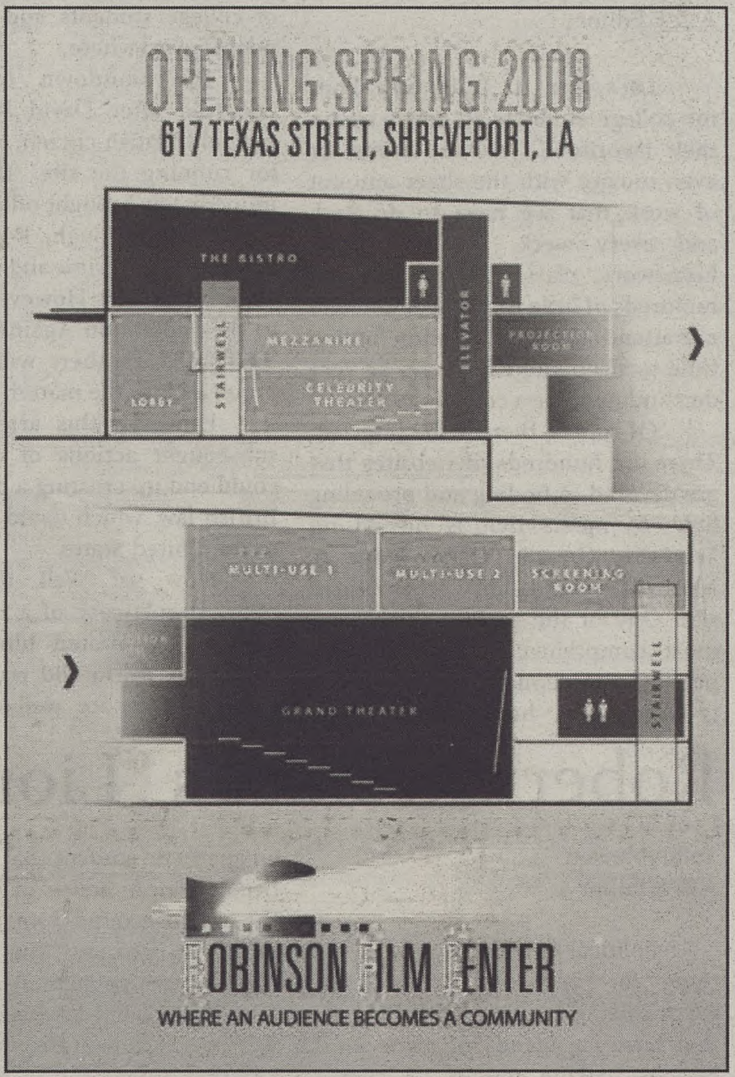
Arriving in May, the Robinson Film Center promises to offer a unique experience to change all that. Shreveport's cultural holes are filling up.

The theater will be modeled after the famous Alamo theaters in Austin. Right off the street, it'll feature a small concession stand with Ben & Jerry's, hot coffee and tea, wasabi peas, and more. There'll be a bistro and wine bar upstairs, flat-screen TVs, free WiFi, and plenty of comfy chairs for relaxing. So, after you finish watching a film in one of the two theaters, you'll be able to "talk cinema" afterwards, get dinner, or whip out your laptop and start that paper due tomorrow. The Robinson will also feature a balcony with one of the best views of downtown Shreveport. There will be plenty of space for educational seminars in film and receptions. I'm sure one of the old timers at Centenary will grab onto this. Booze, film, and receptions...explore, invent, connect.

Even inside the grand theater there'll be wider seats, cozier leg room, and you can bring your wasabi in with you. Your current Tinseltown ideas will change. The Robinson will give you a place to discuss film and finally experience this valuable part of culture.

The Robinson Film Center will open next May. To find out more information now, subscribe to their newsletter at www.robinsonfilmcenter.org.

Listen to KSCL 91.3 FM for the full interview with Chris Jay next Monday or Thursday at noon.



The images of what Robinson Film Center will look like on the outside and inside and the layout plan of the center appear here courtesy of the center's website - www.robinsonfilmcenter.org or www.myspace.com/robinsonfilmcenter.

TV Links website shut down for copyright issues

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Let's face it. It is very hard for college students to catch up on their favorite TV shows, anime, or even movies with the sheer amount of work that we have to do each and every week. We have jobs, homework, classes, love lives, and hundreds of little things that demand our attention, not to mention finding time to sleep and eat. It can be very demanding to be a college student.

Of course, there is the Internet. There are hundreds of websites that are devoted to finding and providing links to media that is hosted on YouTube, Google Video, Stage 6, Megavideo, and any other video site. One of the easiest to use and most comprehensive sites for this purpose, TV Links (formerly www.tv-links.co.uk), however, was shut down recently, much to the chagrin of college students and other busy people everywhere.

The shutdown of the site occurred after David Rock, a 26-year-old British citizen, was arrested for running the site. The site was immediately brought offline.

Oddly enough, Rock was not charged with a crime and was released a few hours later. However, according to the Federation Against Copyright Theft (FACT), there will be further inquiries into the matter.

However, this arrest and the subsequent actions of all involved could end up creating a precedent in British law, which could also extend to the United States.

How so? Well, this case is not a simple case of a man filming and selling pirated films and TV programs. All he did was take links from other more well-known sites and place them on his site. Click and the original site would appear and you could watch the video.

There has not been a case like this in the British court system. Where the problem comes in stems from the legal issue of whether Rock actually did anything wrong.

According to the FACT website, the site was "providing links to illegal film content that had been camcorded from within a cinema and then uploaded to the internet. The site additionally provided links to TV shows that were also being illegally distributed."

However, it is not known whether the organization, which spearheaded the investigation into the site, asked Rock to take down any of the questionable material on his site before they swooped in and arrested him.

This raises a question. Think about the emails we send, the blogs we write, the forums we use. Everytime we post a link to a site that could possibly be copyrighted, does this mean that we can be arrested, too? Apparently you can be in the United Kingdom. Whether this trend will make its way across the pond remains to be seen.

For our sake, I hope it doesn't, because the last thing we need is for poor college students to have another offense put against them when they have done very little damage to anyone.

But the words of Rock say it best: "I'm no master criminal. It was just a hobby. I've looked into the law and can't see what I've done wrong. If I thought I was committing a crime, then I wouldn't have done it."

Robert Redford's "Lions for Lambs" is overly preachy

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Political movies are now the "in thing" for Hollywood. It seems like we are being bombarded by movies that have an agenda of some kind, besides making money of course. I am personally not a fan of the political movie, unless the politics of the movie are not the central idea of the movie. I prefer that the politics inform the events on the screen, but not define them.

Earlier this year, I saw a good way to approach the political film in "The Kingdom." The movie was not about condemning policies or the people involved, but rather telling an entertaining story that just happened to be about terrorism.

This brings me to "Lions for Lambs."

The movie is about three separate though very loosely connected stories. In one story, a veteran reporter (Meryl Streep) interviews a rising star Republican senator (Tom Cruise) who has a new plan for trying to end the conflict in Afghanistan. In another story, a political science professor (Robert Redford, who also directed the movie) tries to convince an apathetic student that he needs to become more active in politics and the world around him if he wants things to change. The final story involves two soldiers in Afghanistan (Derek Luke and Michael Pena), who were once students of the professor and are a part of the new plan in Afghanistan.

The main problem with this movie has been the advertising. You think that it will be a thriller, but instead you get a lecture about how people should accept responsibility for their actions. Not what I expected from this movie.

It revolves around two conversations, with lots of unkind words directed at the people in government, the media, but most importantly, the normal people who refuse to do anything.

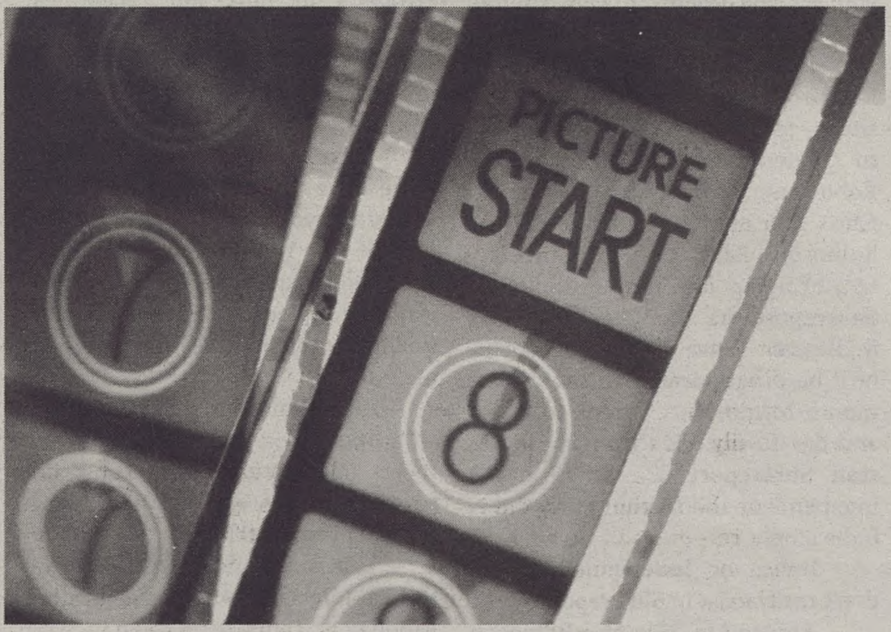
Though the conversations are interesting, I couldn't help but feel like there is no real plot to the movie. The only thing even resembling a plot is the way the soldiers in Afghanistan relate to the other characters. Other than that, though, the stories are nothing alike, except in that there is lots of talking.

The performances by all the main actors are very good, though I expected nothing less considering that they are all some of the biggest stars in Hollywood. Technically, the movie is extremely well-done.

Yet there is the problem with the actual script. The movie can't help but feel like a lecture about social responsibility. While both sides of each argument are presented, I still felt like I was being preached to by the film.

The ironic thing about this movie is that the people who see it will be the people that do not need to see it (i.e. liberals). However, they will find it boring because it is all stuff they have heard before. The people this movie is aimed at would rather see something like "Fred Claus" or "P2."

The movie is a noble and interesting attempt, but ultimately misguided.



"Beowulf" makes magnificent use of CGI to liven up an ancient tale

Jonathan Hedley
Contributing Writer

CGI often receives criticism for its lack of drama at the expense of special effects and I tend to agree for the most part – limitless possibilities for action acrobatics, magical miracles and worldly wonders but little or no real acting. But I have to say I was pleasantly surprised and even proven wrong to a certain degree by this energetic, graphically eye-catching and thoroughly enjoyable computer generated action movie with a subtle hint of a story behind it.

Fitting perhaps, that exponents of the most modern media of film-making in the world today chose the oldest written text in the English language to be the stage from which it makes its point. And make it it does.

Loosely based on the epic poem-legend of the 5th century Uberman warrior of the same name and his struggles against the foulest of Norse mythological monsters, this rollercoaster fantasy brings home what people love about the possibilities of CGI. I have never seen animation that made me recoil like the monster Grendel when he makes surely the greatest stage entrance the 21st century has seen so far, bursting into the Mead Hall of the unsuspecting Danish merrymakers at the beginning of the movie. The phrase 'leaving a trail of death and destruction in his wake' was coined with this movie in mind.

The irrepressible John Malkovich puts a strong case against those who say CGI ruins the acting, shining through the Botox-like graphics as only John Malkovich could. Can I just say John Malkovich again? Thanks.

Anthony Hopkins lends his particular brand of Welshness to what becomes a refreshingly loyal depiction of 5th century legend, while the voice of Crispin Glover (Grendel) magnificently bridges the abyss between Anglo Saxon phonetics and modern English. Robin Wright Penn's face just fits so perfectly as Queenie Welthow – and isn't that just the beauty about mixing animation with real camerawork?

Angelina Jolie does a great job of playing a computer game character, not for the first time, as well as a great job of being hot, sexy and naked. Have I missed anyone? Oh yes, Beowulf – the creators thankfully replaced Ray Winstone's real face and body with those fitting of a warrior of immeasurable strength and masculine beauty, but kept the unmistakeable cockney tones for maximum effect – "I am here to kill your monsta!!"

To conclude; aside from the obvious graphic achievements, what impressed me most about this movie was the thoughtful portrayal of the Anglo-Saxon legend in its own terms – a story perhaps foreign to post-romantic thought. Beowulf is the epitome of a warrior (at one point our hero recounts a story of how a 5-day long swimming race with a friend was lost because of the need to fight off sea-monsters) and the underlying moral of the story is that of the enduring and sole weakness of the ultimate man.

Strange but true news: Chess boxing, sale stampedes, and female camouflage

Aleks Kasztalska, Features Editor

There once was a little Pole
Who only ever had one goal:
To write a column full of news
That make one think and that amuse.
So, all her weekends, all her nights
She'd spend perusing online sites
In search of stories good enough
To make her readers smile and laugh.
So, here's to hoping this week's stuff
Just like the last's, will be enough.

1) "I just call... to say... I'm dead?"

A certain resident of Cetinje in the South European country of Montenegro was recently lay to rest with his cell phone.

Just before he passed away, the 67-year-old man, who had always spent hours on the phone with his friends, requested that his family bury him alongside his beloved gadget.

Which is exactly what they did because, well, you don't say "no" to your relative on his death bed. So, as weird as the Montenegrin's last request might have seemed, the family had the responsibility to fulfill it.

What the family did NOT have the responsibility to do, nor what they should have thought of in the first place – no matter how much they loved their father/husband/etc. – was to have the man's body exhumed when they realized that they had forgot to insert a calling card into the phone.

Is it just me, or would you too be scared out of your wits if you were walking across a cemetery and all of a sudden heard the "Smack my bitch up" ringtone coming from one of the graves?

2) Next time you think about picking on a geek, better be prepared to have your butt kicked. After all, you can never be sure that your unsuspecting victim isn't another Frank Stoldt.

The German has just won the first world championship in chess boxing.

Yes, you've heard me right. Chess boxing is a combination of the two sports in alternating rounds, so that the two opponents fight for a few minutes with their fists, then for a few minutes engage in a game of regular chess while still on the ring, then get up and fight some more – and so on, until one of them gets either knocked out or checkmated.

The sport was invented by a Dutch artist Iepe Rubingh and chess boxing games have been staged since 2003. By winning this year's championship, which was held in Berlin, Frank Stoldt has become the first world chess boxing championship ever.

As it turns out, chess boxing has been steadily gaining popularity, so much that it is now taught at one of Berlin schools.

Seriously, this is too great of a story to need a commentary.

3) At the time of this article's writing, the death toll in the south-western Chinese city of Chongqing is estimated to be at least three. 31 people are seriously injured, and seven of them are said to be in a critical condition.

All because of a sale.

A group of anxious Chinese shoppers was so excited over the opening of a new Carrefour superstore, that they literally elbowed one another to the ground and crushed three people to death, injuring many others.

The stampede is reported to have occurred at 8:30 in the morning, but the crowd had been lining up in front of the store since 4am.

The reason that the opening was such a big deal was because Carrefour had been advertising discounted rapeseed oil, which is commonly used for cooking. Once the doors opened, the tense customers could no longer be contained – hence the stampede.

Talk about killer sales (so I like puns, so sue me)!

4) Forget Versace, forget Gautier, forget Calvin Kline. Aya Tsukioka is the new fashion guru.

The 29-year-old experimental fashion designer hailing from Japan has just come out with a brand new line of... camouflage clothing for women.

The new line includes a skirt that opens into what looks like a real vending machine that is supposed to outsmart an potential aggressor, as well as a "manhole bag" which resembles a sewer lid and can hide your valuables away from a thug.

Tsukioka also designed wraparound sunglasses which are intended to scare off sexual predators. They are so dark that even the shiest woman can look a potential groper on a public train straight in the face.

Tsukioka's products are only a few examples of a recent outpour of unusual inventions in Japan.

Although Japanese crime rates are dropping, defense apparel and gadgets are becoming very popular: let me just mention knife-proof high school uniforms and tracking chips in backpacks that tell the parents when the child enters and leaves the school.

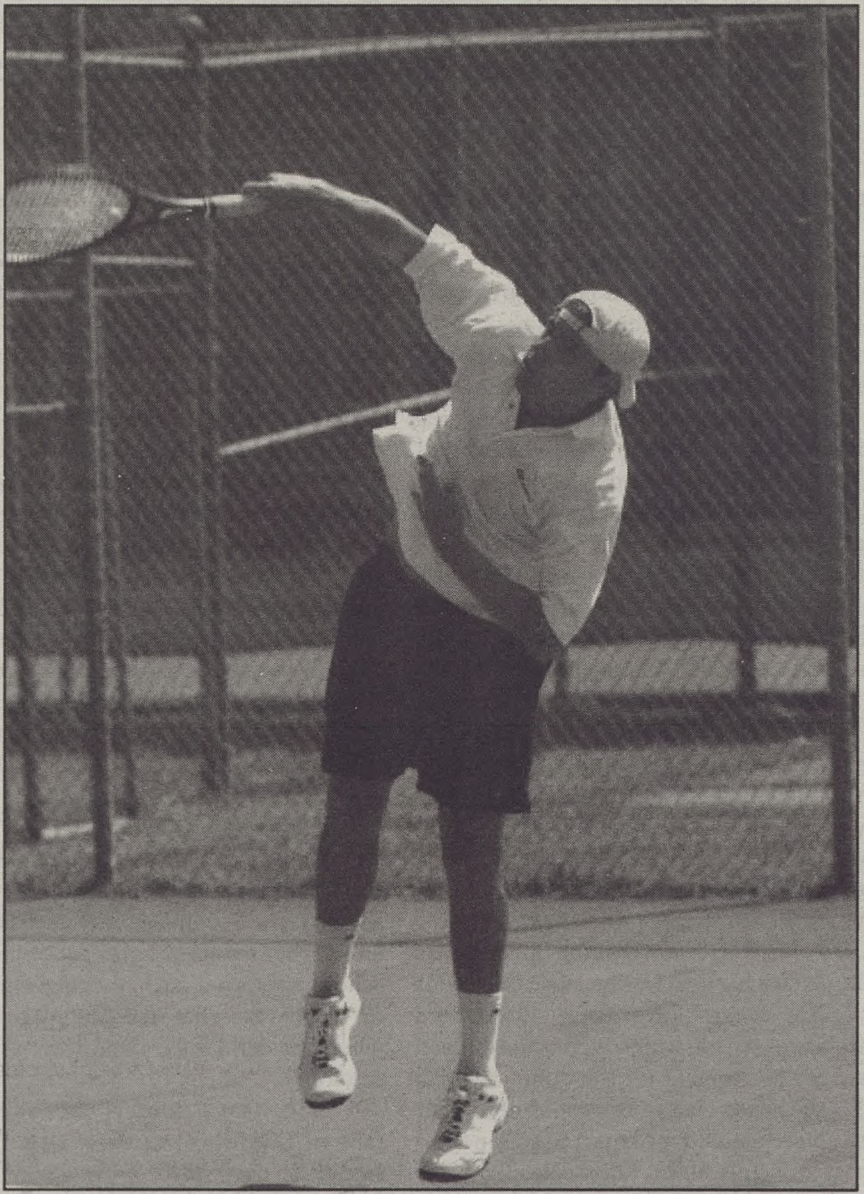
Yet, what I think is the coolest part of this whole story is that the Japanese have already invented a word for these weird new inventions: chindogu ("queer tools").

SPORTS

Tennis team readies to take 2008 season by storm

Michelle Junot
Staff Writer

With its fall season complete, the Centenary Tennis Team has already begun preparing physically and mentally for its spring competitive season. The fall season usually consists of several tournaments in which the team competes individually rather than collectively, though this year the boys' team was only able to compete in one tournament due to cancellations of other scheduled tournaments. Still, according to returning sophomore player Jake Dawson, there was definite improvement from last year. In the boys' tournament, "nearly everyone picked up at least one win," Dawson said.



Russ Patrick is a Centenary 2006 graduate, but GoCentenary.com still shows his photo for current news.

Joining the team this year are two new first year students, Oscar Medellin and Gretchen Ashley, as well as junior transfer student Kayleigh Sullivan. When asked about her experience as a new freshman player on the team, Ashley said that the team has been very welcoming and helpful.

Even though the team is not currently competing, it is still practicing and steadily preparing for what lies before it. Like the fall season, Dawson expects the spring season to be an improvement from last year. He said, "We returned every starter and our schedule is favorable; we expect to be competitive in conference and potentially have a decent winning percentage against non-conference foes."

When asked why he plays for the Centenary Tennis Team, Dawson said, "I have a natural love of the game, but our coach helps maintain that love by allowing us to work hard through interesting drills. Rather than drive us into the ground with suicides or miles, Coach Jacobs gives us running drills that involve motions we will actually be doing on court, which is helpful."

Centenary students, faculty, staff, and alumni are encouraged to attend the home game against Jackson State on February 17, 2008. They are tough competitors and a quality team, but the Gents could definitely take the win. The Centenary Tennis Team would really appreciate some serious fan support, so be sure to mark your calendars!

Bowl Championship Series Standings

Here's a quick look at the seventh edition of the B.C.S. standings.

1. Missouri (11-1)
2. West Virginia (10-1)
3. Ohio State (11-1)
4. Georgia (10-2)
5. Kansas (11-1)
6. Virginia Tech (10-2)
7. LSU (10-2)
8. USC (9-2)
9. Oklahoma (10-2)
10. Florida (9-3)
11. Boston College (10-2)
12. Hawaii (11-0)
13. Arizona State (9-2)
14. Tennessee (9-3)
15. Illinois (9-3)
16. Clemson (9-3)
17. Oregon (8-3)
18. Wisconsin (9-3)
19. BYU (9-2)
20. Texas (9-3)
21. South Florida (9-3)
22. Virginia (9-3)
23. Cincinnati (9-3)
24. Auburn (8-4)
25. Boise State (10-2)

Jarboe Jabber : Warning: College Football May Cause Heart Attack

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

First question: Do you own a TV? Second question: Were *you* watching college football? Third (and final) question: Did you have a freaking heart attack? This weekend was a jam- packed, sucker-punching, crowd-pleasing hoopla of some fine American football. From the Friday we got out for break until the night I went back to sleep in my dorm room on Sunday, I was pleasantly overwhelmed by a plethora of jaw-dropping football coverage. What more can a boy ask for?

There are a few games that stuck out to my mind that were nail-biters 'til the end. First, Texas (11) in College Station playing arch in-state rivals Texas A&M. The Longhorns came into the game looking to clench a win to push them one step closer to playing Missouri for the Big12 Championship, and their hopes were dashed in a 38-30 loss dash. Texas A&M, eat your heart out! The soul purpose of the Aggies is to "saw the horns off" of their foes in Austin. Mission accomplished.

Second, you have Tennessee (18) against SEC rival Kentucky. This game proved to be a thriller, as was expected. After four overtimes, the score was settled 52-50 in favor of the Volunteers. Kentucky (unranked) gave an incredible performance though receiving a heartbreaking loss. The Vols clinched an SEC title opportunity against LSU this weekend.

Ah, yes. Since we're on the topic, we also experienced the shocker of LSU (1) vs. an unranked Arkansas in Death Valley. "Why the hell did it happen?" said freshman T.D. McMurry. "All they had to do was hold 'em at 4th and 10!" The impact of the triple overtime defeat of the LSU Tigers by the Razorbacks of Arkansas touched close to home as students came back from their vacation. Many students actually attended the game in Death Valley and did not walk out with the conclusion they wanted. Elated Arkansas fans now have the last word in the bitter rivalry until next season.

So what more can you do to us, college football? You've destroyed our hopes and dreams. You've made our days happy and full of glee. You've mixed both of them together and given us a week of football we will never forget. Long live the game of champions.

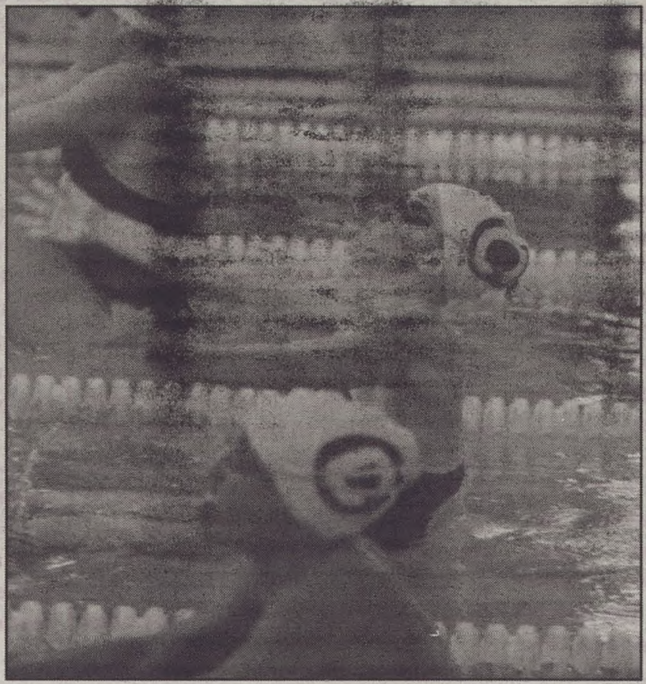
Swim teams compete at Delta State

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

Before Thanksgiving break, the men's and women's swimming teams took part in their last meet for the fall season, hosted by Delta State.

On the women's side, the Ladies came up short to all three teams - Delta State, Alabama, and New Orleans. DSU beat the Ladies 99-39, while Alabama (93-43) and New Orleans (75-52) also finished ahead of Centenary. However, despite all three team losses, the Ladies did happen to grab three individual first-place finishes.

Sophomore Maggie Vaughan took home two of the three first-place finishes. With a time of 17:23.86 in the 1,650-yard freestyle and an effort of 5:07.22 in the 500-yard freestyle, she was able to stay competitive against top schools. Sophomore Leslie Wyatt also took home first place in the 200-yard IM with a time of 2:13.86.



Another top finisher was freshman Natalie Holcomb, who placed second in the 200-yard freestyle at 1:56.94 and placed third with a time of 55.13 in the 100-yard freestyle.

On the men's side, the Gents came up short against both Delta State (76-62) and Alabama (91-44).

Sophomore Wladmir Montoya was the only individual Gent swimmer to capture a first-place finish on the day. He posted a time of 51.84 in the 100-yard butterfly for the win. The Gents did capture a team victory on the day as well. The 200-yard freestyle team of Chase Lambert, Montoya, Dustin Myers, and Bryan Myers took the event with an effort of 1:26.30.

Bryan Myers was consistently successful on the overall day with two third-place finishes in the 50-yard freestyle (22.29) and the 100-yard butterfly (54.63). Several other Gent swimmers took home individual honors, capturing second and third-place finishes.

Both the women's and men's swim teams will return to action in January when they host TCU in the Centenary Swimming Complex.

Athlete of the Week: Balancing school and swimming

Full Name: Betsy Leigh Smith
Classification: Junior
Hometown: Shreveport, Louisiana
Major: Elementary Education
Sport: Swimming
Events: 100 and 200 Breaststroke (or whatever the coaches decide to make me swim!)

Why did you choose to come to Centenary?

I have trained under Butch Jordan, my coach, since I began swimming and I wanted to continue my training and swim career under his coaching.

How long have you been swimming?

I began summer league swimming when I was 11 and the following year I began swimming year round.

What has been your greatest accomplishment?

Being able to swim in college.

What do you look forward to the most this season?

We have just completed our travel trips, which is my favorite part, but we will be taking our first training trip to Fort Lauderdale this Christmas, which will be a lot of fun for the team!

What has been the hardest part of being a student-athlete?

Being an education major, a lot of my work is done at the elementary schools in Shreveport. It has been tough to get to the schools at 8:00 in the morning when I finish practice at 7:30.

The Conglomerate presents:
The life of a Centenary Athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

A small town girl heads home to Texas to find herself immersed in a house full of cats and ball games. Yeah, that's my life - or at least a week of it - when I am away from the academic world. Thanksgiving break was well deserved on all parts. I mean, 18 hours this semester, two internships, and writing for the Congo, along with playing some college softball, have consumed most of my time. So, a few naps, a little bit of home-cooked food, and a lot of catching up on college football, and my family was well worth my time to say the least. I found myself home on Friday afternoon to hug my dad and my little brother and watch them make their way to the woods. It's hunting season, so I spend lots of time shopping with my mom, though I'm not complaining one bit.

I'm pretty lucky to be a softball player. Our season is in the spring, so I am home the entire time for both Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks while basketball is slaving away on the courts representing Centenary. That is the commitment we put in as athletes. Though Thanksgiving was exciting, not much went on in my small town in Texas. I saw several movies, watched several games, and ate several meals. But then it seemed so quick as I headed back to school ten days later to find myself running around the track in the fitness center at 6 a.m.

We continue to work hard this off-season in preparation for this exciting new season in the Summit League. Our season kicks off in February, and we are non-stop until after school is out. We are looking forward to the big-time teams we are scheduled to face: Houston, Kansas, Oklahoma State, Texas A&M, Baylor, and Purdue, to name a few.

Well, since not much is going on in my life besides the busy end-of-semester presentations and papers, I will leave now with some encouraging words for our men's and women's basketball teams.

Good luck this weekend against Louisiana-Lafayette and Texas Tech. Send Bobby Knight back to Lubbock crying.

Go Centenary!

"I come to play everyday." – David Ortiz, Boston Red Sox

New Orleans Saints: Anything could happen

Kat Michiels
Staff Writer

The New Orleans Saints are becoming a somewhat tumultuous team. After a record-breaking season for them last year, most fans expected equally wonderful things from them this year. The Saints proved a disappointment.

The Saints opened the season with four straight losses, nine interceptions, one touchdown pass, and one defensive sack. They averaged about 12.75 points per game. They lost star running back Deuce McAllister in the third game; he suffered a torn ACL in his left knee and will be out the entire season recuperating from surgery.

After losing Deuce and another game, the Saints tried to turn it around and succeeded. After four straight losses, the Saints came back with four straight wins, defeating Seattle, Atlanta, San Francisco, and Jacksonville. Quarterback Drew Brees got back into the New Orleans groove by throwing eleven touchdown passes and only one interception. The defense recorded 12 sacks and four interceptions. They averaged 30.5 points per game. Things were turning around for New Orleans, where over 70,000 people were at the New Orleans Superdome to support the Saints.

November 11, with the Superdome again filled with over 70,000 football fans, the Saints endured another loss, this time to the St. Louis Rams. It was a pretty high-scoring game - the final score was 37-29. As the playoffs crept closer, the Saints turned their attention to Week 11 on November 18, when they faced the Houston Texans, who also stood at 4-5. The game, with an end score of 23-10, allowed the Texans to break even; the Saints, however, sank further down into their losses. On November 25, the Saints traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina, to play the Panthers. The Saints slaughtered the Panthers 31-6, bringing their season total to 5-6.

At this point, though, anything could happen. With the current standings, teams really need to start fighting to make the playoffs. The wildcard games should especially be interesting this year, if the win/loss records keep up the way they are. The Saints' next game will be played at home against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers this Sunday, December 2.

Mudbugs season kicks up ice

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

The Bossier-Shreveport Mudbugs finally kicked up their game the Tuesday during break, grabbing their fourth consecutive win at home. The Bugs won a tight game against Corpus Christi with a score of 2-1 at the CenturyTel Center.

According to the Mudbugs website (mudbugshockey.com), it didn't take long for the scoring to start in this game. The Corpus Christi Rayz took advantage of a powerplay (when Joe Ori was put in the box for goaltender interference early in the first period) and Kevin Watters scored a rebound shot to put the Rayz in the lead with 1-0 only 2:43 into the game.

The Mudbugs came back with a slam when Tyrel Lucas sped the puck past Rayz goalie Jason Tapp to tie the game, ending the period in a 1-1 tie.

Only 22 seconds into the second period, Chris Brassard, with assistance from Brett Smith and Quade Lightbody, dumped a pass to give the Bugs the lead. Nearly making the game 3-1, Daniel Pegoraro was awarded a penalty shot, but didn't quite make it against Tapp's great glove, keeping the game just a one-goal win by the Bugs.

Even though Corpus Christi kept up their momentum during most of the third period, they were unable to step up to John DeCaro's mastery to tie the game. Thus, the Bugs keep pushing ahead, playing Youngstown this past Friday and Saturday at the Chevrolet Center for the SteelHounds' first home game.

All Mudbugs games can be heard on AM 1130 KWKH and updates can be found on their website www.mudbugshockey.com. Also, look for more Mudbug highlights and game updates in your weekly sports section of the Conglomerate.

England is a not-so-surprise casualty as Euro 2008 Qualifiers are finally decided

Jonathan Hedley
Contributing Writer

Next summer's European Championships in Switzerland and Austria will take place with the conspicuous absence of one of the world's great footballing nations. Qualifications finally came to a close last weekend with Steve McClaren's England team tripping up at the final hurdle, losing 3-2 at home to Croatia thanks to a calamitous error by debutant Goalkeeper Scott Carson and a heartbreaking late goal from Mladen Petrić for the visitors.

England, who only needed a draw to qualify, saw their world fall apart in the first 15 minutes as Croatia went two goals ahead, only to bring the game back level with a penalty from Chelsea's Frank Lampard and an inspiring strike from Liverpool striker Peter Crouch. Alas, it was not to be, with Petrić's 77th minute 25-yard thunderbolt silencing the 90,000 strong capacity crowd.

The time is gone, the song is over, thought I'd something more to say.

Well actually I do. England's epic-worthy fight-back against adversity and hellfire only to have their brave hopes harshly dashed by a cruel twist of fate is a heartbreaking story that I will tell my grand kids. But it is old news. That is, I heard it two years ago, and two years before that too. And two years before that too. In fact, I've heard it every two years since 1990 – when it was actually true. Ever since then the story's credibility has been continually bolstered by the English nation's willingness to believe it.

Actually, England's spectacular failure to make the grade is thoroughly deserved and might, just might, be the best thing that could happen to this team and the institution that is responsible for it.

Let me explain a few things to those of you not completely au fait with the fortunes of this particular "one of the world's greatest footballing nations". I'll begin two centuries ago, when an Englishman first penned the official rules to what became the biggest sport in the world. Back in those days, England didn't participate in international football competitions, as they was considered by all concerned to be inferior to the game which was played in the green and pleasant land – kind of like why America doesn't play anyone else in American Football.

When England finally did stoop to participate, by invitation of course, they came to the rude awakening that the beautiful game is so beautifully simple that other nations had got quite good at it despite not having invented it. Kind of like the development of nuclear power. England won it when it was hosted there in '66 but otherwise have always had to settle for being only one of several traditionally great footballing nations.

Now fast-forward to '86, when England actually did have a team worthy of glory, only to have their hopes destroyed by a certain Diego Maradona of Argentina. One of the greatest players in the game, Maradona scored two of the most famous goals in history to break English hearts in the World Cup semi-final in Mexico - as the dust was still settling from the Falklands War. One goal is the generally accepted greatest goal of all time, the young Argentine going solo past the entire England team to score it; the other is the generally accepted most unbelievable goal of all time, the young Argentine dunking the ball in the net basketball-style before the eyes of everyone in the world except the referee. (You can't touch the ball with your hands in soccer-football.)

I'm sorry, I'm rambling.

In 1990 they had a decent shot, going out heroes in the semi final to eventual winners West Germany in a heart-breaking penalty shoot out. And that was the last time they went out heroes.

On paper, England have a team that should win everything. A team full of stars so famous you've even heard of them in America – David Beckham, Michael Owen, Wayne Rooney… Dear Reader, can you name a Croatian player? These players play for the best teams in the world and for good reason too. Frank Lampard led Chelsea to two successive Premiership titles; Steven Gerrard won the Champions League almost single-handedly for Liverpool in a heroic three goal comeback against Milan in 2005; Wayne Rooney was 'the finished article' already at the age of 16.

Yet when they play for England they are anything but heroic. They are awful. They play awful tactics against awfully inferior teams and come away with thoroughly deserved awful results. For the last eight years they have gone into major tournaments as serious potential winners, bookmakers favorites, and with the hopes of a proud nation willing them on and they have made that nation look like fools. Awful fools.

Now with nothing better to do for the next 12 months England are off on a hunt for a new coach with 'Second-Choice-Steve' McClaren having been unceremoniously dumped by the FA back into the world if management mediocrity in which he belongs. England were the first ever 'great footballing nation' to employ a coach that wasn't from their own shores with the appointment the Swedish Sven Goran Eriksson – one of the best around at the time. This enormous swallowing of pride did nothing to improve their performances and everything to encourage ridicule from rivals, but the problem was, as it is today, that there are very few English coaches that are up to the job – and with the press circus that comes with it, even fewer want it. (The English press are the only press in the world who deliberately go out to upset the national team on the eve of tournaments.)

Now I see that a certain Jose Mourinho, former Porto and Chelsea manager, currently unemployed, is front-runner for the job. I'd just like to say, in black and white for the world to see, that if the English FA give the job to a Portuguese I will not watch England play again. Not even for the purposes of objective journalism. Why? They are lovely people, and I must stress that all Portuguese people I have ever met have always been very nice, polite, courteous, intelligent and all round great people. They have a beautiful country with a wonderful cuisine and an illustrious seafaring history. But the Portuguese are the scourge of football. When it comes to football they are scum and should be banned from all international competitions and shunned in the same way the Arab world doesn't let Israel play in their competitions. In fact, since Israel play in European competition, we should send the Portuguese to play with in the desert. They are cheats, whiners, liars, braggarts, cads and scumbags and I have never seen them play a game of football in which they haven't repeatedly proven the fact.

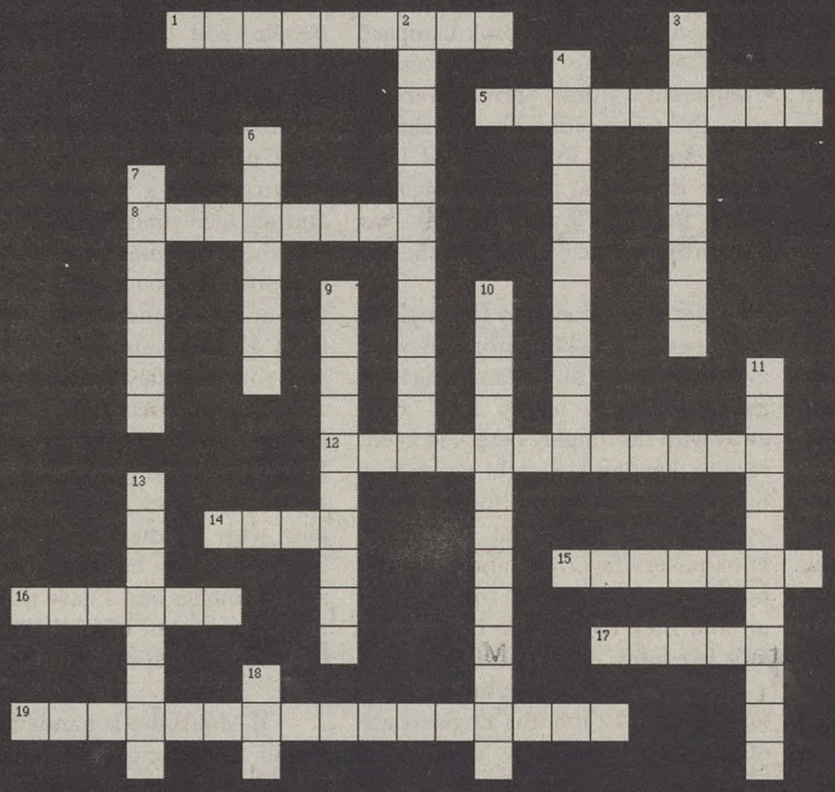
If Mourinho is handed the job, it will prove once and for all that there is no national pride left in the national sport. And that is precisely the problem with the millionaire team of players that lost to Croatia last Saturday.

For those of you so perseverant to have read this far down, the teams that did qualify for next summers finals are: Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden and Turkey, with Austria and Switzerland qualifying automatically as host nations.

For those of you really interested, Scotland and Northern Ireland, who never ever qualify for anything, both came within truly heartbreaking whiskers of making it this time. Alas, there shall be no teams representing the British Isles in the Euros next year.

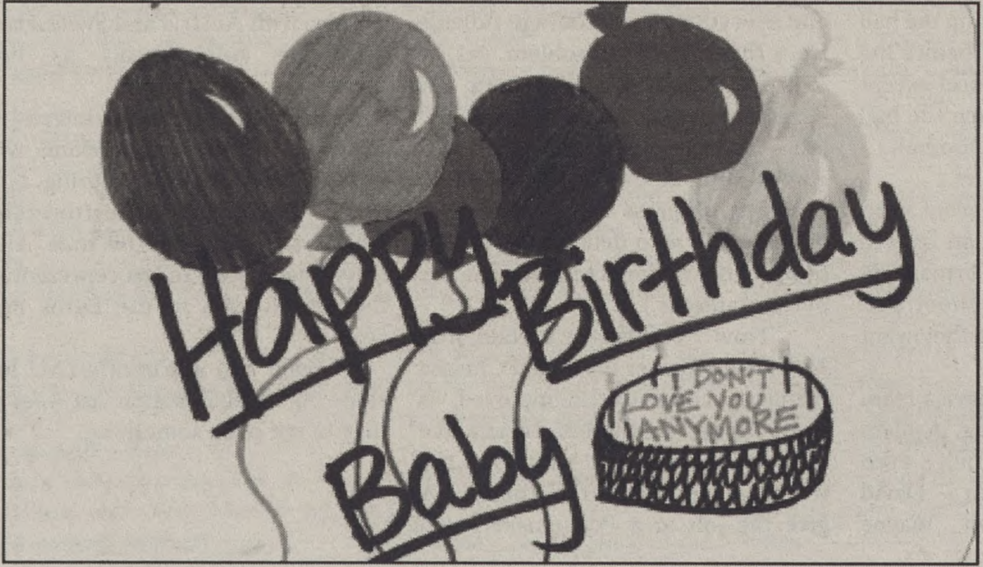
Yeah, and apparently LSU lost some big baseball match last week so they're out of er, something.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE:
MOVIES, FILMS, AND FLICKS



Centenary Secrets

In honor of the newly released Post Secret book "Lifetime of Secrets" the Conglomerate will be printing secrets of Centenary students.
In order to participate take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box #786 or slip it under the Conglomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.


Happy Birthday
Baby
I DON'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE

ACROSS
1. Film that pokes fun at Disney movies
5. Christmas movie starring Vince Vaughn and Paul Giamatti
8. Mr. Margorium's Wonder _______
12. Costars in American Gangster with Denzel Washington
14. Elizabeth star ______ Blanchett
15. Across the Universe is set to the songs of this band
16. No Country for _______ _______
17. 30 Days of ________
19. Upcoming sequel starring Nicolas Cage

DOWN
2. Sports spoof movie
3. Star of upcoming film I am Legend
4. Costars with Jonathan Rhys Meyers in August Rush
6. Michael Clayton star George ________
7. Adaptation of an epic Old English poem
9. Why Did I Get Married? director
10. Book adaptaion starring Nicole Kidman
11. New Johnny Depp movie, its a musical!
13. Jerry Seinfeld's animated movie
18. _____ in Real Life

Horoscopes

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) This week you will be greatly influenced by a man in a black hooded cloak.

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) Menudo is back! No, I'm not lying but your boyfriend is.

Capricorn (12/22 –1/20) You will have a hankering for bad chinese food, fight it.

Aquarius (1/21-2/19) I would tell you that your week is going to be amazing and stress-free but my mother taught me not to lie, or to trust girls who like bananas.

Pisces (2/20-3/20) Poetry is not your thing, when you're feeling emo paint your nails black, grease up your hair, and look moody. Spare us the bad lyrics.

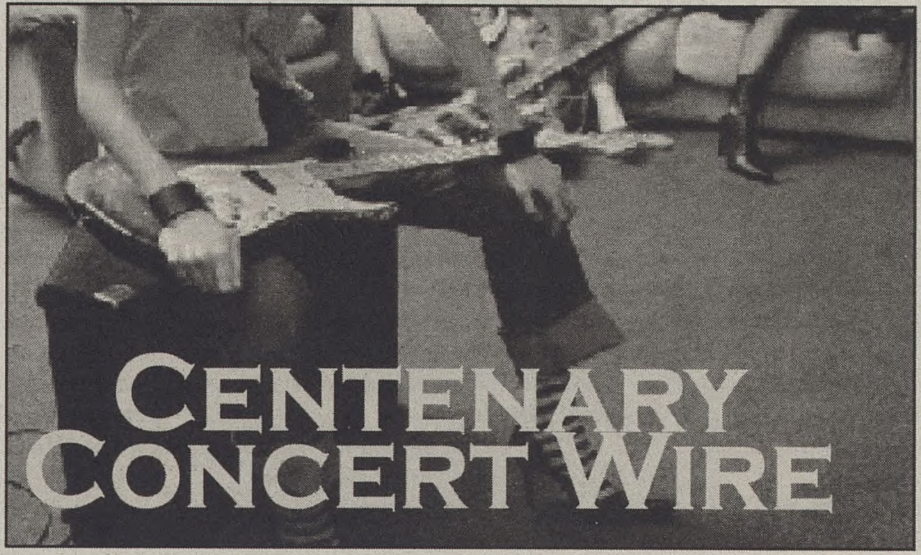
Aries (3/21-4/20) Calling your friends at ungodly hours of the night is not cool, and I assure you they are plotting revenge. So check your shoes before putting them on.

Taurus (4/21-5/21) College is serious, but then again so is your addiction to *NSYNC, we are staging an intervention.

Gemini (5/22-6/21) Camping is really fun, you should give it a chance.... please?

Cancer (6/22-7/23) Have a cup of hot chocolate, or if you don't like chocolate, a therapist.

Leo (7/24-8/23) Finding someone who will acrtually put up with your drama will be dificult, so naturally myspace


CENTENARY
CONCERT WIRE

Nov. 30, Friday
Houston Marchman
9 PM
MacHenry's
Fort Worth, TX
http://www.houstonmarchman.com/
http://www.machenrys.com/

Nov. 30, Friday
Sintilla, Uncrowned, and Miser
10:30 PM
Warehouse on 630 Commerce
www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

Nov. 30, Friday
Porcelain Arms, Twice Taken, Where Moon Is, Vysions, and Wellington
6 pm
Harlequin Alley at 516 Texas
Shreveport.
This is an all ages show.
www.myspace.com/stephfruge.

Dec. 1, Saturday
Ray Wylie Hubbard
8 PM
Texas Music Theater
Waxahachie, TX (just South of Dallas)
$15
http://www.raywylie.com/
http://www.texasmusictheater.com

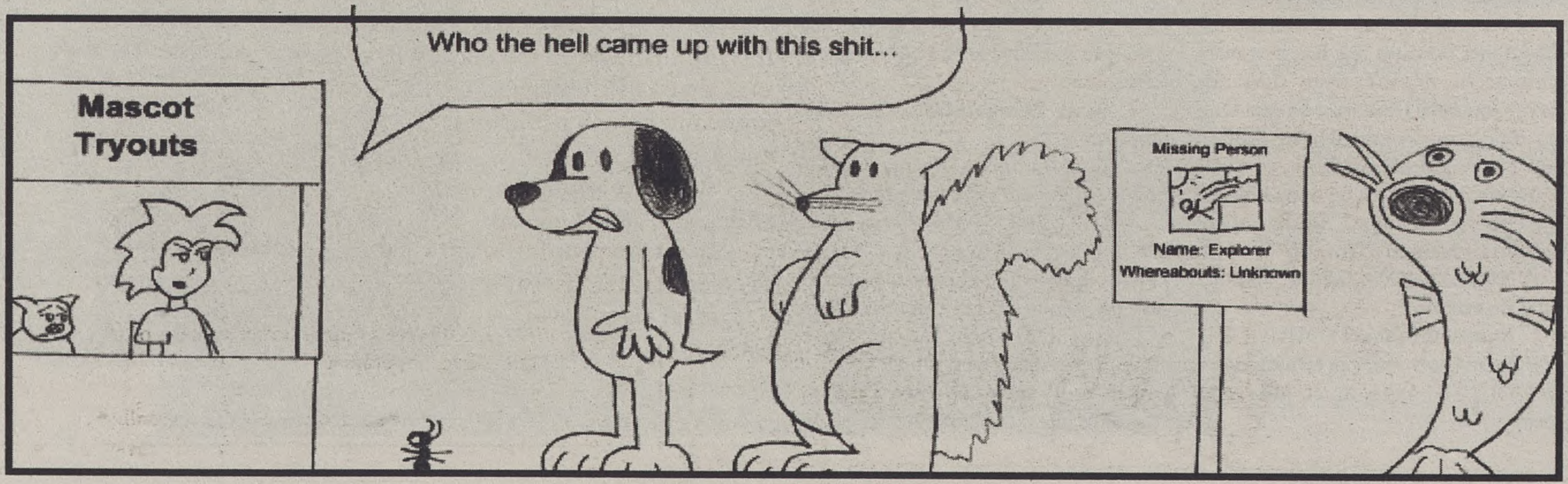
Dec. 1, Saturday
Robert Earl Keen
7:30 PM
Music City Texas Theater
Linden, TX (just over 1 hour away)
http://www.robertearlkeen.com
http://www.musiccitytexas.org

Dec. 1, Saturday
Reckless Kelly
10:45 PM
Gilley's
Dallas, TX
Free admission from 6-8, Chris River opens @ 8:30
$12 General Admission
http://www.recklesskelly.com

Dec. 1, Saturday
Motley Crude and After the Crash
10:30 PM
Warehouse on 630 Commerce Street
Shreveport.
www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

A Day with Christ

by Chris Christ


Mascot Tryouts
Who the hell came up with this shit...
Missing Person
Name: Explorer
Whereabouts: Unknown

Satire: this year's most awkward family Thanksgiving dinners

Nick Rougely
The Satirist formerly known as
Prince, Class of 2007

Last week marked the beginning of the holidays and the beginning of the season of annual family dinners. Usually it's a lot of fun, but we've all had those dinners where things go wrong. Someone brings their sketchy new boy/girlfriend or some long lost cousin shows up. Well, in salute to this, I thought I'd recap some of this year's most awkward family Thanksgiving dinners....

Salt Brings Pepper to Seasoning's Dinner

Mr. Salt: "So umm Peppa? Is that how you say it? So you play basketball, right?

Pepper: Wait, what?

Mrs. Dash: Baby shhhhh!

Mr. Salt: Oh I was just wondering. I umm just thought... umm my wife made some fried chicken if you would like some.

Pepper: Hold up son. Hold up. You think just cause I'm made of peppercorn I like basketball and fried chicken? Is that it?

Mr. Salt: No! No! I just thought you spices liked that kind of thing... right dawg? Home pepper slice.

Pepper: Oh hell no, "you spices?" Hold me back I'm bout to grind this..."

Trey Brings Hottiexx1837 to Shavano's Dinner.

Mom: So, honey, where did you...umm..."meet" Miss...umm... Cinnamon?

Trey: Well...I was up real late one night and I texted FLIRT to 59583 and the girl of my dreams replied.

Mom: Oh, I see. Well do you need to keep the laptop on the table or can she see us from the web cam?

Trey: She's a part of this family, Mom! Just because she has her away message on doesn't mean she's not there! You never understood me! One day, when you are added to someone's Top 8 list right behind Tom, you will know what it's like to be truly loved!

Stacy Brings Soulja Boy Tellum to Nelson's Dinner.

Mom: Sooo Mr. Tellum..."tellus," what do you do?

Soulja: Why don't YOUUUUUU pass them peas and corn, why don't YOUUUUUU pass them peas and corn.

Mom: Oh, oh okay. Here you go. I'm not really sure why you are yelling....and could you please stop jumping on the table, I just...

Soulja: Soulja Boy off at this dinner, watch me eat this corn on cob, then I'm gone Superman dat fowwwllll! Superman dat fowlll! Superman dat fowl!!!

Dad: Okay, how about you get the hell out of here.

Jebidiah Brings Squanto to Walker's Dinner.

Ezekial: Listen Squanto, I know we said we'd call you for T-giving this year. It's just we had no way to reach you...And with Pocahontas being pregnant and all...

Squanto: Yah, no, I know, it must be hard to find me, what with you living on my old home. No, I get it, I show you how to grow corn, you rape my mom - it's a fair trade. No, I don't want your damn Stove Top stuffing. I don't even know what that is. I live on a reservation now, you bastard! You're using my sacred lambskin as a condom, for Tonto's sake! No, Jeb, I won't quiet down! I want my stuff back! I'm still paying for my subscription to "Better Teepees and Gardens" -what are you doing with it?? What do you have to say for yourselves??

Ezekial: Dude, Manifest Destiny?

Son Brings Mom to Family Dinner

Son: Guys, I would like you all to meet Mom....She and I are...

Dad: We know, Son. She was on this side of the table last year... We'd rather not talk about your new arrangement.

Mom: We never meant for it to happen - it just did...

Dad: Once again, DO NOT want to hear it! And you wonder why Arkansas gets such a bad name! Geez. Pass the butter.

Zelda Brings Mario to Link's Dinner

Link: So, umm, "Princess," is it now? Who's your new friend?

Zelda: Link, Mario. Mario, Link. We met last year in level 8-4. Mario killed a dragon and ate mushrooms to save me, and it's been love ever since.

Link: Oh, I see...Yah, no, that's cool...he rescues you once and he gets in your pants. No I see, its cool, you have me wait for like, 15 years 'til you are ready...and you bring this guy in. No, it's cool. Yah, what's he got, a mustache? Yah? Yah? Why don't you go plunge my toilet, buddy? I'm out riding horses, traveling across universes for this bitch, and you are tripping off mushrooms and jumping on stuff - real brave. I've got a sword! I'm out looking for a triforce while Douche-Bigalo Italian-Gigolo over here is banging my girl. Why don't you go back down Luigi's pipe.

Zelda: Link...let's not do this again. We had this discussion.

Link: Yah, I get it...you are a tease. You sit up in your tower and give it up to every guy with power up. I get it. I died 9283 times trying to save you and this is the thanks I get?

Harry Potter Brings Dumbledore to Weasley Dinner

Ron: So, Professor...just wondering if you could pass those penis...err...I mean peas.

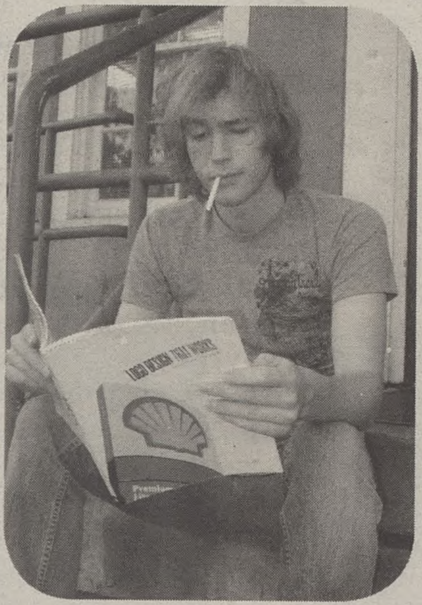
Dumbledore: Sure, son.

Ginny: So, anybody going out to play some queerditch...errr...I... umm...Quidditch?

Dumbledore: Listen...kids, I think we've all read the news lately. It's just that...let me show you something from my pensive...hmm... Harry, where's your wand?

Harry: Sir...once again, that's not my wand.

Centenary Singles



Name: Jon Schleuss
Year: Sophomore
Major: Communication/New Media
Zodiac Sign: Libra

What are your turn-ons?: Guys that wear decent clothes, but don't put too much work into it. Guys that smile a lot. Tall guys. Guys that ask questions and are philosophical thinkers. Oh, and tight jeans and clothes, too.

What are your turnoffs?: Guys that wear makeup, polos, cologne, or have plucked eyebrows.

Ideal date: Not a sit-down date like a movie or anything. Driving around with the windows down at night playing good music on the speakers.

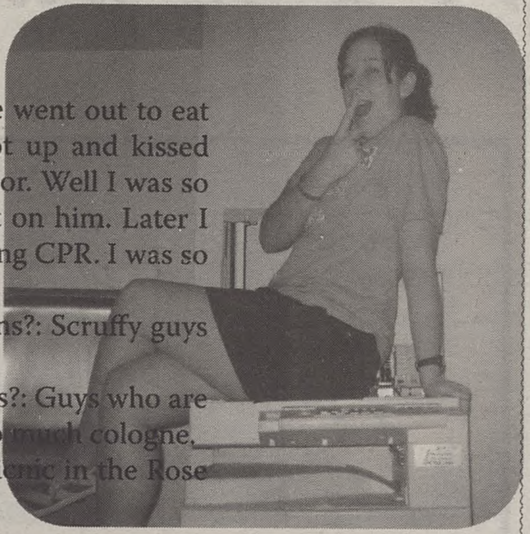
Name: Sara Carpenter
Year: Junior
Major: English
Zodiac Sign: Leo

Worst Date Story: We went out to eat and all of a sudden he got up and kissed this girl that was on the floor. Well I was so mad that I just walked out on him. Later I found out he was performing CPR. I was so embarrassed.

What are your turn-ons?: Scruffy guys with glasses and long hair.

What are your turnoffs?: Guys who are overconfident and wear too much cologne.

Ideal date: Having a picnic in the Rose Garden.



The CONGLOMERATE

December 7, 2007 Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press Volume 84, Issue 12

AND THE WINNER IS...

THE CENTENARY CATAHOULAS!

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Over 1,400 Centenary students, faculty, staff, alumni and even prospective students cast their votes to decide on an additional college mascot – and with 32.3% of the first-place votes, the Catahoula is the clear winner.

In an interesting turn of events, the Gent came in second place with 20.6% - nearly 300 voters wrote in that they wanted to keep the Gent and have nothing else. When the votes for Gent are subtracted from the total, the Catahoula increases to 41% of the vote (Marketing and Communications did that math because this is only an additional mascot).

The Catahoula, a leopard dog named after Louisiana's very own Catahoula Parish, was one of five choices for an additional mascot. The others were the Squirrels (10.8%), Mudcats (7.8%), Fire Ants (7.5%), and Explorers (7.3%). (For more specific numbers, please see the graphs and charts.)

The new mascot was unveiled during halftime at last night's big basketball game – the Gents took on Summit League rivals South Dakota at the Gold Dome. President Schwab, SGA President Holly Williams, Mascot Committee Student Co-Chair Jared Ward and alumnus Hoyt Bain were all on hand to make the announcement, along with the rest of the mascot advisory commission.

The Catahoula received the majority of the overall votes as well as the majority of votes in each of the following groups: students, alumni, faculty, staff, and selected prospective students.

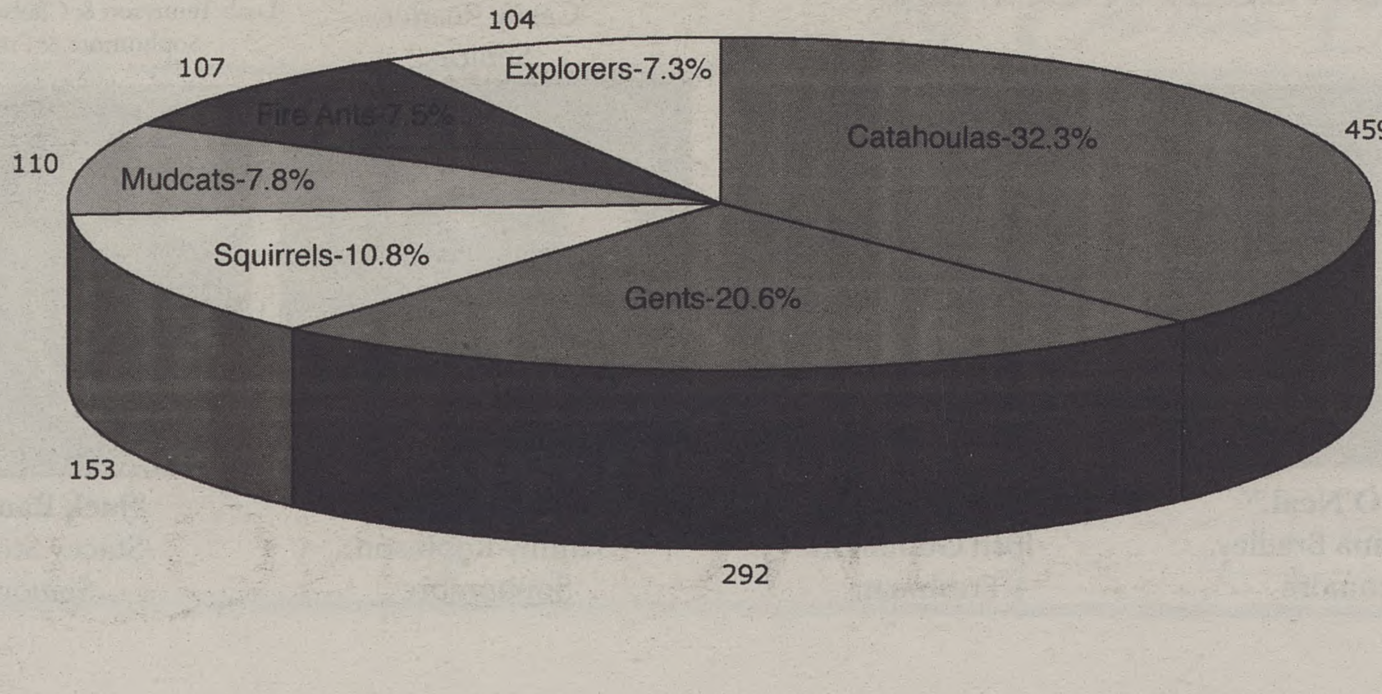
A real Catahoula was also present at last night's game – Marketing Director Rick DelaHaya drove to Houston, Texas to adopt the dog from an animal shelter. The Catahoula will live at DelaHaya's home; "he plans to train several students to be handlers," said Gail Nolte, Vice President of Marketing and Communications. "It is our intent that our mascot be on hand at many events throughout the school year – basketball, soccer, softball games, maybe even intramurals!"

In addition to being ranked #1 in the vote the highest number of times, the Catahoula was also the most popular choice in terms of weighted scoring. Nolte said the tabulators analyzed the results from several different points – first, how many people actually named the Catahoula as their #1 choice, and second, through Borda scoring. Borda scoring (named for its inventor) means weighted scoring; in this case, the #1 choice received 4 points, the #2 choice received 3 points, #3 received 2 points, #4 received one point, and a rank of 5 or worse received 0 points. In those terms, the Catahoula received 3,176 total points, while the Mudcats received 2,098.

"Again, the second place choice wasn't close at all," said Nolte, "but it is interesting that in this way the Mudcats jump ahead of the Squirrels."

The Squirrels received 1,720 Borda points, the Explorers received 1,659, the Fire Ants received 1,453, and the Gents as a write-in received 1,168 points.

cont. on page 3



Letter from the Editor: From fun Congo history to a new mascot

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Before I get to what's undoubtedly on everybody's mind, I want to thank April Valentine of the Intercultural Affairs Office for sending Features Editor Aleks Kasztalska to us with a massive stack of Conglomerates from the 1940s. They're fascinating and we plan to include a little blast from the past (as soon as I think of a less cheesy name for the section) in each issue from now on – starting in this one, where we reprint what freshman traditions were in 1946. As Layout Assistant Courtney Delaney exclaimed, "I want to go back in time and go to that school!" Not to deride today's Centenary, but some of these articles (free cigarettes at chapel?) provide intriguing insight to changes between college life then and now. Ms. Valentine, we can't thank you enough!

Now, (what I've dubbed) The Great Mascot Debate has generated much more controversy than I expected when we first started printing murmurs of fire ants and squirrels last year. As Dr. Prickett said in the front page article, the dialogue it's created has been great in terms of free speech and people actually caring about this school – but it seems that not all of the dialogue is necessarily positive.

I don't have a problem with that; I think it's terrific, actually. One of my biggest hopes as editor of this paper has been to address the problems at Centenary in a more concrete way – not to be provocative or offend people, but in order to be an actual comprehensive news source. Every institution has difficulties, and I'm a firm believer in raising awareness as an effective method of implementing change. This is why I asked several members of the "Save the Gent" Facebook group to contribute their opinions to this week's issue. I believe all of them raise important points, both positive and negative for the College.

One of the most compelling concerns I've seen rise out of this hubbub is a fear that the new mascot will merely be a superficial band-aid tacked onto the face of Centenary – and then nothing more will happen. As long as phone and letter campaigns continue, however, and as long as the dialogue about how to improve our school circulates in a fair and public forum, I personally don't think that will happen. I've spoken to enough concerned Centenarians (I wasn't sure what to use: Gents, Ladies, or Catahoulas?) who will hardly let matters of significance slide into oblivion, especially now that they're being given the spotlight.

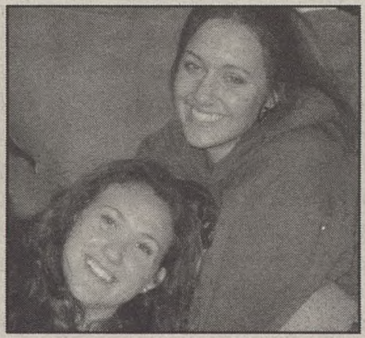
I do think, however, now that the voting has ended, the results have been calculated, and the decision announced, that the only way to move is forward. Those dissatisfied with the results are more than welcome to feel that way (and write in to the Conglomerate if you feel you have unaddressed points!), but in this context, the majority has spoken. A mascot may not be the most important question at Centenary, but for a private college to run like a democracy is kind of impressive to me. To my knowledge, the votes were fairly counted, and though some find fault with the voting process itself, it's finished. We've finally moved from the age of deliberating over a mascot to acting definitively – and maybe some don't like the end result, but the end of this issue means we can move on and address other, more pressing and major ones.

The point of this entire exercise was to increase school spirit, and though several different opinions exist on the issue, I think the mission is accomplished. Whether people have been proclaiming their faith in the Gents and Ladies or expressing willingness to embrace something new, everyone seems to agree that there's something at Centenary to be proud about. It might be as little as a particular student organization or as big as an entire academic department – either way, if we can stick with that sentiment, we can all move forward as one community, no matter the nickname.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

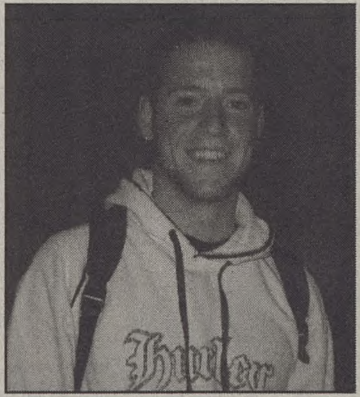
WHAT CELEBRITY WOULD YOU STALK?

"Hugo Chavez."
-Casey Reader,
Senior

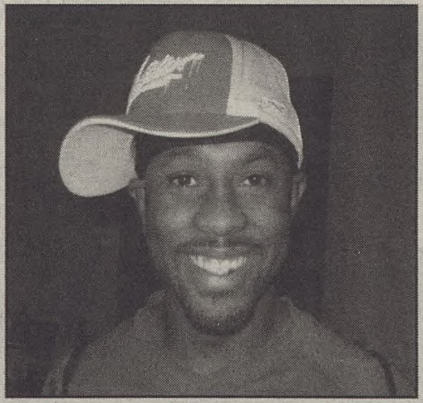


"J-Christ."
Leah Tennyson & Chelsey Rusinovich
Sophomore & Freshman

"Shaq O'Neal."
-Mary Diana Bradley,
Sophomore



"Jessica Simpson."
-Josh Gomillion,
Freshman



"Eva Mendes."
-Sammy Robinson,
Sophomore

"Jack Bauer."
-Stacey Stokes,
Senior

Catahoula selected as additional mascot, cont. from front page

Nolte said the Gents were the only major write-in. "The next highest has less than 20 votes," she said. "Three of [the write-ins] had more than 10, and the Caiman was one of them." Student Spencer Bostwick managed an impressive verbal campaign on behalf of the Caiman (a type of alligator, also spelled Cayman) around campus, encouraging everyone from students to DPS officers to write it in as a choice with a persuasive spiel. Referring to Bostwick, Nolte said that "it was really good that he made the effort."

Dr. Robert Prickett, Assistant Professor of Education and Faculty Co-Chair of the mascot committee, said he was very pleased with the results of the vote. "In a very simple way, it was a success for the fact that our goal was accomplished – which was to find an additional mascot for Centenary," he said.

"The fact that that occurred after many, many years of talking about it in various groups, alumni talking about it, students talking about it – I think the fact that we do have an outcome is a successful ending to this endeavor," said Prickett. He was also surprised and pleased that "a statistically significant majority of faculty took the time to have their vote count as well – the current faculty and the current student body participation speaks well for both groups."

The statistics themselves are certainly a concrete reason for the committee to be pleased, as according to Prickett, they were not sure "they would break 300 people" – and the total count ended up over four times that much.

Though the process and idea of adding a new mascot has come under fire for various reasons (see the Opinions section on pages 4-6), at least part of the Shreveport community became involved in a positive way. Leading off of Teddy Allen's articles in The Shreveport Times, the local newspaper conducted a community vote on their website in which the Catahoula also won with 31.6% of the vote. Shreveport Times readers picked Squirrels as the second most popular choice, with 23.7%.

When asked about the opinions of those who believe the additional mascot is merely a temporary diversion from the real problems of the school at hand, Prickett had the following to say: "The leading force was always the bookstore kind of component. Yes, this is not going to fix Admissions overnight, but if you have an icon – the bookstore is the common ground. It doesn't matter if you're an athlete, prospective student, or somebody from out of town literally just coming by – one of the first places you visit is the bookstore.

"The [Catahoula] is not going to fix Admissions, but the fact that someone can walk into our bookstore and see a really cool t-shirt or really fun stuffed animal ultimately does not do harm and does help Admissions, or does help retention. I truly think the visual potential of a mascot allows you something that Centenary has not done – if you go in the bookstore now, it's all words, no kind of visual icon, which is what we're trying to do with this mascot."

Prickett also reemphasized the fact that the purpose of the vote was not to completely eliminate the Lady and the Gent, and that adding a mascot is not "an unprecedented endeavor," citing the example of the Tennessee Volunteers and their mascot, Smokey the Coon Dog.

Centenary students who purchased the $5 maroon shirts last week with "The Centenary..." can now return them to the bookstore in order to get "Catahoulas" printed as a finishing touch – at no extra cost. The $5 shirts will be available through the end of the semester, and in addition to putting on the new graphic for free, students who purchase the shirts will have the first opportunity to pre-order new mascot merchandise.

The members of the President's mascot advisory commission were Dr. Kelly Weeks, Dr. Jeanne Hamming, Dr. David Hoaas, Paul Morrow, Lisa Rauschenbauch, Saige Wilhite, Lindsay Ezell, Suneera Kompelli, Dione Wrenn, Saul Castaneda, Adam Philley, Bryan Myers, Kyle Broughton, and Hoyt Bain, with co-chairs Jared Ward and Dr. Robert Prickett. Gail Nolte, Lori Bradshaw, and Holly Williams were also involved.

The Conglomerate sincerely thanks Gail Nolte for her help with information.

Pictured: The adopted Centenary Catahoula, who will love at the house of Marketing Director Rick DelaHaya. Photos courtesy of Mr. DelaHaya and Gail Nolte.

BY THE NUMBERS: MASCOT VOTING RESULTS

Who voted?

Alumni	739	52%
Students	512	36%
Faculty	68	5%
Staff	56	4%
Prospects	44	3%
Total	1,419	100.0%

How many voted for the Catahoula?

Alumni	241/739	33%
Students	162/512	32%
Faculty	18/68	26%
Staff	17/56	30%
Prospects	21/44	48%
Total	459/1419	32%

Borda scoring (weighted scoring) – total points

(If a choice was ranked #1, it received 4 points; #2 received 3 points; #3 received 2 points; #4 received 1 point, #5 or worse received 0 points)

Catahoulas	3,176
Mudcats	2,098
Squirrels	1,720
Explorers	1,659
Fire Ants	1,453
Gents	1,168

The administration should address issues of enrollment and retention rates rather than repackaging the college

Editor's note: The following two opinions have been taken, with permission, from the "Save the Gent" Facebook group. At press time, nearly 300 students and alumni had joined the group to discuss the ongoing mascot debate.

Abram Darnutzer, Class of 2006

I am against changing the Gent and Lady, as well as the addition of another symbol to go along with these, and I will get to this later. But I am more worried by the fact that the school seems to be ignoring, or just losing sight of, the real reason why a lot of students and alumni are upset about this. We see the school trying to re-package itself to make it more marketable, while ignoring the true problems that face it. Sagging enrollment and pathetic retention rates have put the school on a steady decline for years now. We need to look at why students do not want to go to Centenary and why they don't want to stay.

I, personally, do not see the academic side of Centenary contributing to this and I am very thankful for all that my professors have done for me. The problem is what the students have to deal with outside of class. First of all, freshman students are required to live on campus, which I do not have a problem with. But living on campus requires them to buy a meal plan. First off, these meal plans are completely overpriced. This is made worse by the fact that what they are given has been continuously voted as some of the, if not the, worst cafeteria food in the country. Then let's look at the possible social life of the students. If they are under 21, there is next to nothing for them to do off campus, and options for social outlets on campus have steadily dwindled over the years. For the most part, the only people that attend CAB events are the CAB members themselves and maybe five to 10 others. The students see these boring and lame, to be frank. And up until about five years ago, Greek Life was a way for both Greeks and non-Greeks to have something to do. But the school has almost destroyed this option by limiting the number of people that can be in these houses instead of working with the Chapters to create both a safe and fun environment that everyone can be happy with. (Just to give you an example of this, in 2006, people were told by DPS to leave my fraternity house when there were not even 50 people there. My fraternity had around 35 members at the time, and could easily have policed a group of 150 to 175, but was not given the opportunity.) The only real option now facing under-21 students is to socialize in their dorm rooms. A lot of times this can include things that are not allowed on campus. I am not condoning these actions, but I can sympathize to the lack of any other options for the students. These actions will eventually lead to them getting in trouble with the school, and when this happens the punishment will severely outweigh the crime. (For example, the fine for drinking on campus my senior year was up to $200.) And when these infractions occur, the students are forced to deal with a member of Student Life. Most of the time, this is the head of Residence Life, Kevin Wagner. He is someone who bullies and intimidates the students away from trying to fight for their rights and into accepting the punishment that is being thrown at them. I used to work in Student Life and witnessed these situations on many occasions. Mr. Wagner also completely changed the housing lottery system to where it rewards hours more than grades. His reasoning for this was that he didn't "want to punish someone for struggling in one class." So he would rather punish someone for doing well in all of their classes? All these things are very detrimental to the students' opinion of the college, and make it a very frustrating experience. Who can blame them for wanting to leave?

Another problem facing the school is not holding funded student groups accountable for their actions and performance. A perfect example of this is The Yoncopin. The quality of Centenary's yearbook has been declining for years. This culminated in the 2006 yearbook. It is an embarrassment that this yearbook was even sent out, and my disgust was further compounded by the fact that someone was paid very well to make this. Yet, the school doesn't hold this person accountable at all for what they have done.

That is just a small summary of some of the things wrong with the school. I am sure that most students could give you countless other problems with Centenary and stories to back them up.

Now, on to this mascot business. My first problem with this is in regard to the five options. These ideas are terrible, and I am not the only person who thinks that. It is as if someone thought about it for 10 seconds and these were the first things that popped in their mind. I would be embarrassed to have any of these as the mascot of my alma mater. I like the Gent and Lady as mascots, and if you would like a symbol for the school, why not have students run for the official Gent and Lady each year? Students would vote and the winners would be in costume at all major athletic events for the year. You could even give these students a small financial compensation for extra incentive for them to do the job. Problem solved.

I love Centenary, and it pains me to see it on this decline. As seniors, myself and a few others tried to bring our concerns to the school, but were ignored. For the sake of the school, these problems cannot be ignored much longer.

Centenary has improved; alumni should continue support

Georgette Lang, Class of 2007

Last spring was not about adding a mascot. There were attempts to purchase a mascot costume and we kept hearing dissent about the current mascot and the way it has been portrayed, so there were several forums hosted to discuss the issue among current students, faculty and administration.

I feel like there has been a lot of complaining in the "Save the Gent"' Facebook group, and granted, a lot of it is warranted. However, there are things that have changed since some these alumni have been at Centenary. For one, our Career Services office is IMPROVING. It used to be nonexistent, then we had exciting Eva and the AIDS-from salsa-fiasco, but I think there are great things going on in that office right now.

Whatever happens, I hope that alumni will not use the result of this to pull their support. Please, if you have something to say about the school or what is going on, I say voice your concern, but make sure you are voicing it to the right people and that you are current with what is actually going on on campus and that you are not just taking your opinion from what one current student has told you. I think it would be a shame for alumni to pull their support because of this situation.

KSCL

Visit the new KSCL podcast in iTunes by searching for "kscl" in the iTunes Store or visit www.kscl.fm

OPINIONS

Disclaimer: The views in this section do not refleect those of the Conglomerate. We merely (and happily) provide the forum in which people can discuss.

Centenary needs to focus on diversity more than a mascot

Deborah Badie, Senior

I was as excited as everyone else about the new mascot. I thought it would foster more school spirit to have an actual mascot at the games to interact with the crowd. I also thought it was a good idea not abandoning the Gents/Ladies mascot entirely, to keep a sense of school history. However, after I got over my initial excitement, I saw this mascot change for the bone it is. When Centenary had a climate assessment last year I felt that it was done because the college was up for accreditation. My suspicions were confirmed when the mascot committee was formed. Of all the issues the assessment brought up, this is the one we chose to tackle? This is the one that will help with diversity? While I understand there was an issue with the mascot being insensitive as far as race and gender were concerned, it is far down on the list of diversity issues. When are we going to see more persons of color teaching? When are we going to get a course in African-American history? What about the fact that we only have 14% diversity on campus (that includes African-Americans, Asians, and Latinos)? Before anyone says, "You should have brought this up at the student mascot forums," I will answer that I did. I expressed concern that this mascot issue was given priority over so many other problems. I was told that we would get to those issues later and this time (forum time) was scheduled to talk about the mascot. It has taken years to bring this mascot change to the table. How long do you think it will take to diversify the student body and the faculty? Don't you think we should get started on that first?

I love Centenary and that's why I want to see it change for the better. Unfortunately, I will be graduating before that happens, but I hope the Centenary experience for future students is a more diverse one. For possibly my last time…GO LADIES!

The Ladies merit as much attention as the Gents

The following is a response to last week's letter from alumnus Patrick Fertitta about the Gent being integral to Centenary.

Dear Patrick,

As a current student of Centenary I feel the need to respond to your outcry. So, let's get down to business.

First, let me address your usage of the term mascot, which you frequently use incorrectly. If you had read the pages on the Centenary mascot webpage (www.centenary.edu/mascot) or had a dictionary, you would have noticed that a mascot is a person or thing symbolizing an organization. I ask you to please walk around Centenary and find this person or thing: an elderly man with a top hat. You won't find this image on any shirts or PR materials and you won't see a "mascot" at any Centenary athletic events. Don't call the Gentlemen or Ladies a mascot; they are nicknames.

Second, and most importantly, let me discuss your ignorance about the origin of the Gentlemen and Ladies nicknames. Yes, while the story of Centenary's Old Ironsides - to - Gents is quite true, you never mention the "interesting origin attached" to the Ladies. Were they just sitting at the house taking care of the children of these "southern planters," as you call them? No, the Ladies nickname was something Centenary adopted much later in the early '70s. Something called Title IX happened and Centenary needed a quick fix for its completely masculine mascot and nickname. Prior to Title IX time there were no women's athletics at Centenary, save some intramural sports. Why does nobody mention or research this?

Another thing I would like to point out is your usage of Gentlemen & Gents versus your usage of Ladies. For some reason, you use the term "Gents," or some form of, twice as much as the term "Ladies." It's not like you're the first person who's done this. You're not the first person that's put women in the background, underrepresented them, and is continuing to do so with our women's athletic teams. That's a good example of a Centenary tradition. Save the Gent! What about the Ladies? Why do you do this? It couldn't be because of your genitalia, could it?

Finally, your letter clearly ignores the reasons why all this mascot/nickname controversy started up. You eloquently use the phrase "southern planters' sons," when historical facts suggest plantation and slave owners. Don't ignore this. Ladies at those times were left without a voice, stuck in the background. Comments like yours go to show the community and other institutions who and what Centenary really is. And for the sake of humanity, that must change.

It will change, whether you like it or not.

Cheers!
Jon Schleuss
Class of 2010

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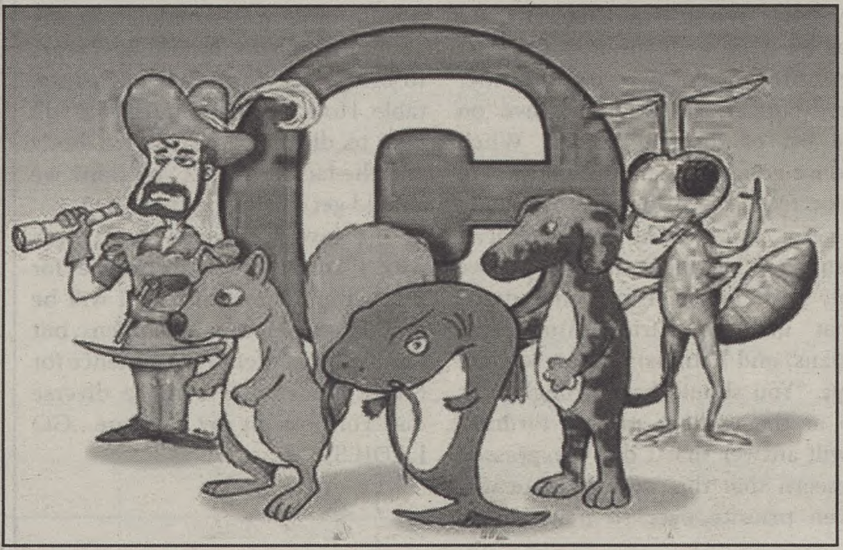
Mascot process fraught with miscommunication; traditions cannot be forced or created

Parker Jarnigan, Senior

As of this writing, the mascot addition to the nickname is unknown. But by printing, we will all know whether it's the Catahoula, the Cayman, or the Explorer. All those who voted for the winner will be happy and laugh at their friends who supported the unfortunate Mudbug. The 300 some odd alumni who clamored on Facebook will cry foul. But in the end, most people will forget the controversy and look back and giggle, telling their friends at other schools "Ya, we used to be the Gents…and we 'still are' but our mascot is the Squirrel…we voted on it." And once again, Centenary will be the little school to poke fun of. Not only will people continue to ask "You go to Cemetery?" – now we will have to put up with derision for having fabricated, albeit democratically, a new "tradition."

Yes, I am another student annoyed at the entire mascot fiasco. My complaint is not with the choices (save the Explorer), nor will I sport a shirt with a self-made Gents "moniker" in defense of our former solitary symbol. Rather, I take issue with the manner in which the entire process was conducted. For the following, it should be noted that I have no clear knowledge of who was responsible for each action. I think I have a fair grasp on the respective mandates and roles of the President's Advisory Committee and the VP of Marketing and Communications, but due to a certain amount of mystery, I make no claim to knowing exactly who decided what. In light of this, I will attribute all decisions to "the Powers that be."

First, I do not appreciate the misrepresentation on the part of the Powers. In an effort to add legitimacy to the Mascot Initiative, the official statements from the Powers referred to the alleged fact that the SGA has worked on a new mascot for years. While ideas may have been bandied about in the past, the most recent SGA action taken in 2006-2007 was to purchase a suit based on a stylized representation of the Gent, an effort met with the Administration's aversion hence summarily dropped. The official response was that a new mascot was soon to be in the works and we needn't waste our time and the students' money.



Second, the inordinate amount of secrecy surrounding the Mascot Initiative has only added to the uproar. As a member of the SGA, I have been party to a number of recent updates from Committee representatives. On November 13, 2007, Assistant Professor Robert Prickett, Dean Lori Bradshaw, and Mr. Jared Ward presented to the SGA. To begin, the Committee representatives requested we keep the information concerning the choices out of the minutes and secret from all students, a request I still disagree with. The choices presented were Fire Ants, Squirrels, Explorers, Wolf Dogs, and Mudcats. You'll notice that Wolf Dogs changed to Catahoulas. As to why, only the Powers can tell you, but it is a prime example of the arbitrariness of the Committee's decision-making process and the Powers' lack of concern for informing the students, faculty, staff and alumni. When I asked the Committee representatives questions about how the voting system would rank the votes and if the amount of response would be considered when weighing the results, the answers were "We don't know" and "No" respectively. If the Committee did not know how the votes would be tallied, how were the students to know? The Committee itself was, according to the website, formed to represent all members of the Centenary community. Yet, those selected were chosen from a select few who had expressed interest in the issue. But when questioned by the SGA, the Committee representatives only gave an example that one student was selected for their enthusiasm to design the new mascot image. While I hope it is not the case, it seems the Committee had an initial level of consensus concerning what to do with the mascot issue, namely to select a new mascot. Personally, I have no strong opinion for or against the Gent as a mascot but I do feel that the entire process could have been more transparent. For instance, from the beginning the campaign's publicized goal was to add a fun mascot that students could rally behind, the assumption being that a Gent mascot would not satisfy such a need. While it is purely conjecture, my personal belief is that the real goal of this campaign is to lower the boom on the Gent and ultimately have the new mascot also stand as the replacement nickname. The manner of unveiling has also been designed with a clear goal of stifling dissension. Rather than revealing the new mascot at homecoming as initially planned, the apparently unexpected controversy led the Powers to announce the winner almost immediately.

But in the end these matters are of minimal concern in comparison to the fact that, through this initiative, Centenary is attempting to create a tradition. Think about that sentence, because it shouldn't make sense. Traditions are not created; otherwise, they would be called executive decisions or group selections. Traditions are not voted on, but rather they develop over a long period and slowly come to embody a certain aspect of the community they represent. When concerns were raised about having a divergent mascot and nickname, the Powers pointed out that many schools do the same: Alabama's Crimson Tide is represented by an elephant. Yet, none of these schools simply decided one day to have a mascot. For example, Alabama became associated with the elephant after a local sports journalist described their coming force like elephants stampeding.

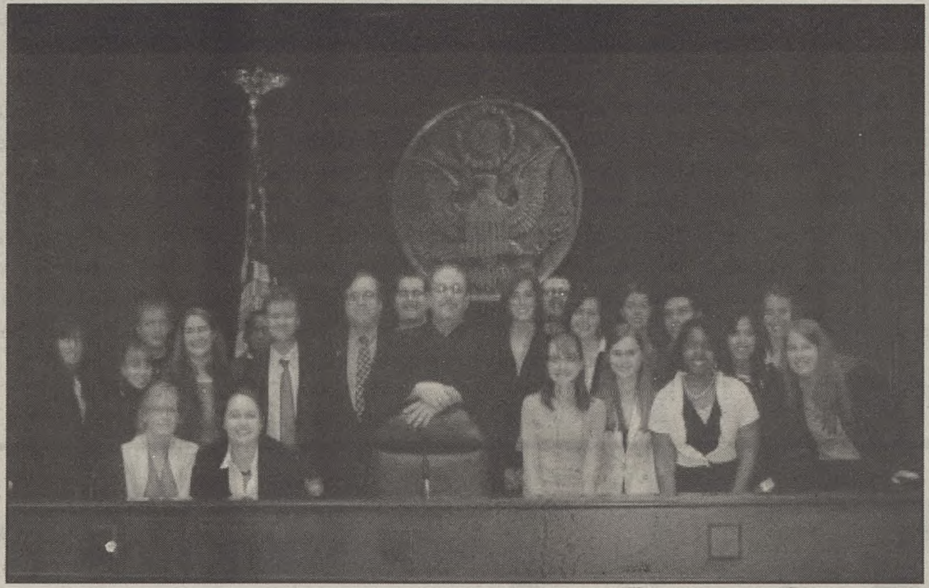
There are many problems with the Mascot Initiative. The reasons for adding make little sense. The Powers have stated that a new mascot will boost school spirit, increase the image of the school, and make it more marketable. Will having a cute yet fearsome ____ [sic] at games and on shirts achieve the boost of support, in athletics and the institution as a whole, that the College is looking for? Will selling Fighting Squirrel hats alleviate the College's struggling finances? For an answer to the latter question, I suggest you look up Bradford College. As to the former, only time will tell, but given the circumstances, my guess is no. Still, there is hope. If it's the Catahoulas, the students could still take steps to make it their own and create a real tradition – maybe one of the fraternities will bring a dog to all the home games and it will stick. Unfortunately, the most recent update from Mr. Ward has announced that, henceforth, the mascot will be the domain of the Administration, specifically Marketing and Communication. My last thought is this – if there must be a new mascot, the only way current and future students will support it is if they feel some connection to it, something that will not be achieved by the continuation of the opaque, ad hoc procedures carried out so far.

Illustration courtesy of David Wright of The Shreveport Times.

FEATURES

Federal district judge entertains Centenary students in court

Amanda Russell
Contributing Writer



On Monday, December 5, 2007, 19 of Centenary's best and brightest political science students headed down to the Federal District Courthouse for the Western District of Louisiana, Shreveport Division to conduct a "moot court" as part of a requirement for Centenary's Constitutional Law Course, PSC 335S. Presiding over the court was the Honorable S. Maury Hicks.

Moot court is an extracurricular activity at many law schools. Centenary's pre-law advisor, Dr. Rodney A. Grunes, has devised a similar version he uses to fulfill the speaking requirement for Con Law, PSC 355S. Participants took part in simulated court proceedings, including the drafting of briefs and oral arguments.

"Moot court" is different from a "mock trial." A moot court involves a simulated appellate court case while a mock trial usually refers to a simulated jury trial or bench trial. Moot court does not involve the examination of witness or the presentation of evidence; rather, it is focused solely on the application of the law to a common set of evidentiary assumptions to which the competitors must be introduced.

Centenary's moot court was designed to simulate the proceedings of the United States Supreme Court. Prior to court, each member of the class was assigned a case and wrote a 15 to 20 page brief arguing for their side. In court, each team, consisting of two or three members, was allowed 30 minutes to present their argument. Like oral proceedings in the Supreme Court, Judge Hicks interrupted the arguments to question the presenters.

The judge generally knows how he is going to vote based on the briefs he receives prior to oral arguments. Questioning is designed to test the attorney's ability to think on her feet and to clarify points of law in the brief the judge may have questions about. In our cases, questioning was designed to make sure the class really knew the cases and to see how well we could hold up under pressure. Standing in an impressive environment (really, you should check out the federal courthouse, your tax dollars are well spent!) in front of an intimidating federal judge is truly a test of one's ability to keep a cool head under pressure.

Anxious members of the class overcame their nerves as soon as they walked up to the podium, answering questions and countering arguments like true legal champs. Judge Hicks complimented the class at the end of the night, saying we "exceeded his expectations."

The docket for the night included four cases ranging in topics from United States international treaty obligations and state laws that burden religious exercise to presidential war powers and state regulation of interstate commerce. Beginning at 6:00 p.m., court did not adjourn until well after 10:00 p.m. The law never rests, I suppose.

As a moot court participant, I would definitely rank the event as one of the coolest things I have done as an undergraduate at Centenary. For students seeking a future in the legal profession, this exercise was a perfect warm-up for those interrogation sessions that are an inevitable part of life as a 1L. Moot court participants included Jeremy Babers, Alyson Escude, Kyle Hilliard, Ali Hilsher, Ross Hudson, James King, Stephen Lioy, Jeny Mather, Margaret McDonald, Christian Nichols, Carter Oswalt, Megan Ottesen, Lori Von Pingel, Laura Pryor, Amanda Russell, Allison Saylor, Versha Sharma Miranda Tucker, Dionne Wren, and Mary Wubbena. Participants spent countless hours doing legal research, writing briefs, and preparing for oral arguments.

Photo courtesy of Lori Von Pingel.

Bossier City wins water quality award

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

Bossier City's water plant was honored recently for maintaining safe water standards for the past five years by the Partnership for Safe Water.

According to Jim Barnett, superintendent of the Bossier Water Plant, "We had to go above and beyond for better water quality." It is apparently a hard award to achieve because it involves a lot of work to maintain that kind of water quality for that long of a period.

The only water plant in Louisiana to qualify for the award, Bossier City's plant is also one of only 140 water utilities in the nation to maintain the Directors Award for five years.

So, in Bossier City, residents can drink their water from the tap with confidence.

The award was achieved by constantly monitoring water samples. The Partnership for Safe Water (PSW) is a national volunteer program developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other water organizations to help provide communities with quality drinking water.

According to the 2006 Annual Water Quality Report of Bossier City, the Treatment Plant was built in 1958. It was originally designed to treat water as a lime softening plant and had a capacity of 16 million gallons a day.

It is the only plant in the area that treats water from the Red River on a continual basis. Plant modifications and automation have allowed the plant to produce quality water for the past several years, being recognized by the American Water Works Association or AWWA, an affiliate of the PSW Program.

The plant's capacity currently is 26 million gallons a day. They have recently added new raw water pumps, ozone treatment, clearwell and pumps, filters, computer process control, and a sludge treatment facility.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Iran stopped nuclear program in 2003

The front page of Tuesday's New York Times announced the government findings that Iran halted its nuclear program in 2003. Despite the news, President Bush addressed the media later that day and insisted that the country is still a threat because of its potential to develop nuclear weapons. Still, the newest findings about the program ending four years ago contradicts the Bush administration's stance since 2005 on Iran's complete determination to go nuclear.

Sudan arrests teacher for naming teddy bear "Mohammed"

British teacher Gillian Gibbons was arrested by Sudanese officials last week for allowing her primary school students to name the class teddy bear "Mohammed." She was charged with blasphemy for using the Muslim prophet's name in such a manner and was sentenced with 15 days in jail, deportation, and potentially 40 lashes. President Omar al-Bashir pardoned Gibbons on Monday, however, following international controversy around her arrest, and she arrived safely in London, England on Tuesday.

Australia elects a new Prime Minister

On November 24, Australian Prime Minister John Howard lost an election to Kevin Rudd of the Labor Party. Howard spent four terms in office as leader of the Liberal Party and was running for a record fifth term in the country. Many Australian voters have been quoted in the press as wanting change, however, and Rudd's first plans as Prime Minister include withdrawing troops from Iraq and ratifying the Kyoto climate treaty. Howard was close friends with Bush and had similar conservative policies on many issues, though approval of Bush and American foreign policy in general in the Australian public is low.

HugoChavezfacesreferendum losses

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's proposal for a socialist country was defeated by voters last weekend. Sunday's referendum centered on changes to the Venezuelan constitution in order to better embrace socialism under Chavez's leadership. The proposed (and rejected) amendments included extending the presidential term from six years to seven years, removing the power of the Central Bank, and possibly most importantly for Chavez, allowing indefinite reelection. The president insists he will press forward with socialist reforms, though many see the results of the referendum as a vote against him.

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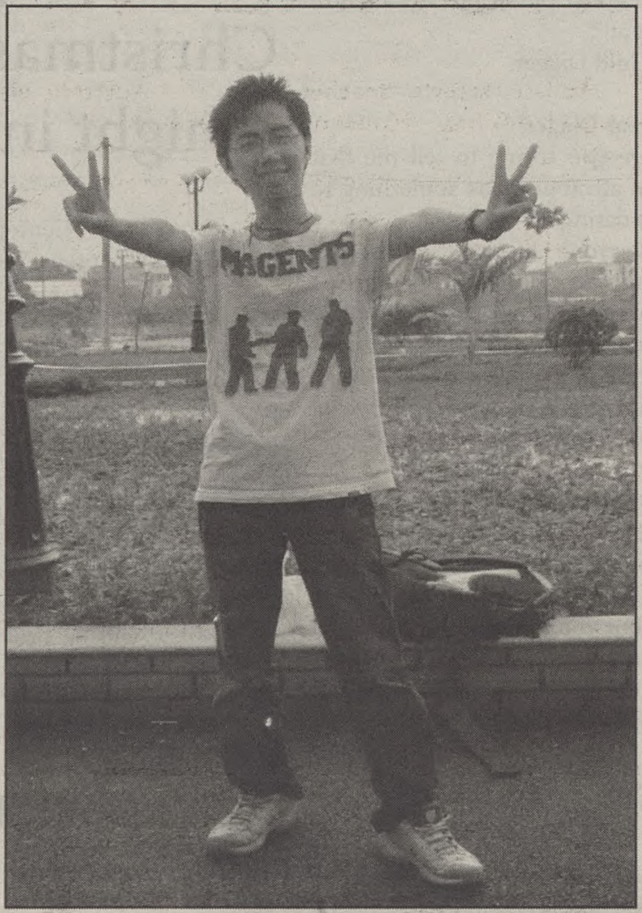
Meet Tuan Tran, a degree-seeking student from Vietnam

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor



Conglomerate: Can you introduce yourself to everyone?

Tuan: My name is Tuan Tran and I come from Vietnam. I'm majoring in business. My favorite sport is soccer.

Congo: How long are you staying at Centenary?

Tuan: I'm here for four years.

Congo: Why did you decide to come to Centenary?

Tuan: Because of the scholarship. I wanted to study in the United States, so I applied to a bunch of schools like Centenary. I chose the school that gave me the highest scholarship, since money was a problem.

Congo: How do you like it here?

Tuan: People are friendly, but I don't honestly like living in Cline. But it's alright; people in Cline are really wonderful. They always have parties and want to have fun.

You can walk out at three in the morning and see people partying or playing music. It's fun, so I might stay in Cline next year.

Congo: How often do you talk to your family?

Tuan: Actually, I send an e-mail to my parents every time they send an e-mail to me. It's usually every few days.

Congo: What do you miss the most about your country, besides your family and friends?

Tuan: Food!

Congo: What is a typical Vietnamese meal? We have a lot of Vietnamese restaurants, of course, but we can't know how Vietnamese their food really is.

Tuan: Every day we eat rice, different kinds of rice. Now, we also have a lot of fast foods that you have here.

Congo: In that case, what is some kind of a food item or dish that we don't have here?

Tuan: It's difficult to describe it… (He thinks for a long time)

OK, it's a roll, and it has eggs, vegetables, meat, and some kind of noodles inside. And it's deep fried – it's really good.

Congo: What are your hobbies and interests?

Tuan: I live in my computer! I play computer games, sometimes connect to the Internet, sometimes I watch TV. Now, I also make some pictures or posters on my computer.

Congo: Anything else? Sports? Books? Movies?

Tuan: Well, I like soccer. And I listen to some music. I actually like "Heroes" and some more TV shows. I like "Harry Potter," the "Ocean's" movies.

Congo: What do you NOT like to do?

Tuan: To study! I don't study that much, but I have to go to class. I would rather stay home and then go to class just to take a test.

I think that the purpose of education is to let people get educated, get knowledge. So, as long as they get knowledge, it's fine. It doesn't matter how they get the knowledge.

Even if I don't go to class, I can learn the same stuff as the person who went to class. But teachers check attendance…

Congo: Is it different in Vietnam, then?

Tuan: Yes, in Vietnam, we don't have attendance. The teacher doesn't care if you're in class. Here, I go to class and then I understand what the teacher is saying, so sometimes I skip classes, because I've learned it.

Actually, right now I'm fighting in every single one of my classes because I have low attendance…

Congo: Well, make sure not to skip too many classes! Now, tell us the most interesting thing about Vietnam.

Tuan: Oh, I know! North Vietnam and South Vietnam are one country! Come on, what do you guys study in history in high school?

I studied my last year of high school in the United States and I studied about the Vietnamese War in my class. A lot of people don't know that Vietnam is one country now, and they should.

Congo: Are the north and the south of Vietnam very different today?

Tuan: Actually, I don't see any difference.

Congo: So, what are you going to do during the Christmas break?

Tuan: My host family is in Michigan and my sister is in Boston, so I will go to Michigan for Christmas and after that I'll go to Boston and stay there until I have to come back to Centenary.

Congo: What's your biggest dream in life?

Tuan: Biggest dream? To retire at the age of 40 and travel.

I think I want to run my own business. As far as I know, a good business is one where you can get out of your company and come back in two years and see that this company is even better.

So, I want to spend a lot of my time when I'm young to build a really good company. After that, when I'm 40, I can retire and the company can still be working without me, so I can go traveling, spend time with my family and children, and still have money.

Congo: Do you have a favorite book?

Tuan: I like "How To Make Friends and Influence People." Last summer, I also read "The Love Language" which divides the way people love in five different ways.

It teaches that love is like a language – you feel most comfortable with your first language, and after that it's your second language or foreign language.

The more you use that language, the more comfortable you are using it.

So, we all have different ways of expressing love, and when two people love each other, they have to learn the way the other expresses love. Because it doesn't matter how much you love each other – you can express love but the other person might not know that.

Photo courtesy of Aleks Kasztalska.

Advice from Allison: On gold digging

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

The opinions and ideas expressed by this article do not in any way reflect those of Centenary College, the Conglomerate, or the writer herself. In fact, these ideas probably don't express any intelligently informed opinions anyway.

Dear Allison,

I met a guy at one of the fraternity houses the other night and we had a great time. He said he'd call me the next day.

It's been a week and I still haven't heard from him. Do you think he's ever going to call me?

-Sad Sophomore

Dear Sad,

So, a guy didn't call you the next day, right?

This school is small enough that I'm sure you can find him and ask him why he didn't call you back. Make sure he's hanging out with his friends.

The Caf would be a great place to do this. You want to try crying about ten minutes before you talk to him just to get a good mascara river running down your cheeks.

Next, throw yourself at his feet and ask him really loudly why he didn't call you the next day. Make sure you sound really desperate when you do this.

It's guaranteed to work every time.

Dear Allison,

Is it bad to date someone because they have a promising future but you aren't physically attracted to them at all?

-Gold Digger

Dear Digger,

Are you trying to tell me that physical attraction has something to do with dating?

Everyone knows that beauty fades, muscles soften, and hair grows in the most unusual places. The key to making a relationship work for the long run is making sure there's something solid between the two of you. Solid money.

Dear Allison,

My roommate never locks the door to our room when she leaves. I know Centenary is a really safe place to live, but you never really know.

How should I tell her she needs to lock the door?

- Livid Locker

Dear Locker,

It's frustrating when someone doesn't respect your valuables as much as you do. Some people just think they are invincible to all of the bad in the world.

The best way to get your message across to your roommate is to get some friends to help you move all of her stuff out of the room. You should probably get rid of everything just to really get the point across.

When she sees that all of her stuff is missing, act surprised and tell her that it must have been stolen. Maybe next time she'll lock the door.

Do you have a problem and need Allison's help? Send your issues to Campus Box 202 or e-mail Allison at acormier@centenary.edu

KSCL

Visit the new KSCL podcast in iTunes by searching for "kscl" in the iTunes Store or visit www.kscl.fm

Centenary celebrates Christmas Candlelight Service tonight in Brown Chapel

From the Centenary News Service, www.centenary.edu/news

SHREVEPORT, La.—Centenary College will share an annual Christmas tradition with the community on Friday, Dec. 7, 2007, when it presents its Christmas Candlelight Service, a program of readings, prayer, music, song and candle lighting in Brown Memorial Chapel. The program is free and open to the public with the service beginning at 6 p.m.

Music will be provided by the Centenary Camerata and Chorale singers, conducted by Dr. Julia B. Thorn; the Centenary College Choir, directed by David Hobson and accompanied by Christine Linschoten and Ruben Reyes; the Centenary Brass Quintet; and Dr. Hollice Watson, organist.

After the service, the congregation is invited to attend a reception and visit with Santa in the Magale Library on campus. For further information, contact the Centenary Chaplain's Office at 318-869-5156.

Contact: Rick DelaHaya, Centenary News Services, 318.869.5073

Need housing during the Holiday Break?

Housing will be available for residential students during the Holiday break for a flat rate of $75. This charge will be billed to you directly through the Business Office. If you are interested in staying over breakplease sign-up in the Residence Life Office before 4pm on December 13th.

If you have any questions please contact Kristy Jackson (x5110) or KevinWagner

Congo Revisited

Editor's note: Thanks to April Valentine of Intercultural Affairs, the current Conglomerate staff has recently inherited old issues from the 1940s. This section will highlight the most interesting changes from then to now and various fascinating tidbits from past Congos.

Volume 42, Issue 1
September 19, 1946

Front page headlines:
"Student body to be largest in history: 1400 approved by Dean's office"
"Chapel building to be remodeled into Playhouse"
"Centenary Gents ready to re-enter football picture"
"Address from College President Joe Mickle"

Freshman Traditions, page 2

"The freshman student will find here at Centenary a set of rules which have been enforced throughout the years by various methods. These rules having become time honored are now considered as traditions of the college.

It is an ancient fact that new members to an organization undergo a certain amount of harmless hazing. One reason for this custom is to raise the ego of the upper classmen and to make the new student realize that he is not the only person in the world.

The traditions as set forth in the student handbook are repeated below so that no freshman can claim ignorance of these rules. These traditions do not apply to veteran freshmen. However there is no rule saying that a veteran freshman cannot participate in these activities.

Freshmen must wear a maroon and white freshman cap; men will remove their caps when in class and assembly.

Freshmen must have their names printed on the bills of their caps.

Freshmen will speak to upper classmen at all times.

Freshmen must attend all athletic events and pep meetings, and all student-body functions.

Freshmen must be able to sing the fight song and the Alma Mater by September 27 and thereafter sing it upon upper classmen's request.

Freshmen boys must wear pajamas and the girls wear gingham dresses with hair in pigtails – also black cotton stockings for the first home football game and participate in the shoe scramble.

Freshmen must carry Student Handbook at all times until the suspension of these traditions, and they must be familiar with its contents.

Freshmen shall not wear any high-school letter or numeral on the campus at any time.

Freshmen shall engage in at least one extracurricular activity – publications, clubs, music, sports, etcetera.

Freshmen shall vote in all campus elections.

Freshmen shall conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen at all times.

Male freshmen will have a crew hair-cut by September 19, 1947.

These rules shall remain in effect until the Fresh-Soph Tug-o-War; if the Freshmen are unsuccessful in this contest these traditions shall be continued in effect until the last football game of the season."

European impressions: New York, California, Alexandria - no comparison

Jonathan Hedley
Contributing Writer

Well, I've been here in the U.S. for just over a month now (the article you read last week was actually written before Thanksgiving) and since those early days when my only knowledge of this great country was solely gained in Shreveport, Louisiana, I can now proudly say that I've been around a bit. For Thanksgiving Break I went on a whirlwind world tour of America – New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Alexandria, all in six days. Yeah, that's right, Alexandria, Louisiana.

Yep. Six days. I've spent enough time in airport security to last me a lifetime. One day, I pray, they will invent a metal detector that can see through my sweater, my shoes and my laptop bag. Then I will feel safe.

I think it goes without saying (but I'll say it anyway) that six days is barely enough time to see one of these places, never mind all of them. Especially Alexandria. New York seduced me before I even touched down. I saw the Empire State Building from the plane – in fact, that was the only time I saw it, thanks to time constraints – but later that night I got on the roof of a New York hobbit-hole (a dwarf at 60 stories) and saw the breathtaking sight of New York in all its glory by night. Now in my job (writing marketing garbage) I use the word 'breathtaking' sickeningly often and I never mean it, but this time I mean it.

I had been singing "New York, New York" for about 32 hours straight when my better, more intelligent and more beautiful half reached the verge of insanity and finally agreed that we have to move there one day. The only downsides were the weather and having to sell a lung to afford the place. Anyway, I got my wallet from Chinatown, saw the Met (there wasn't enough time to see the Metropolitan), ate some Liberty Fries, saw the Statue of French and jumped on a plane to the Pacific.

Saw L.A. in the dark, slept, had breakfast in Santa Monica (The Doors were playing – how perfect is that!?) and then went to San Francisco. And let me tell you that the 12 hours I spent in L.A./Santa Monica were worth the journey – there was just something about the place that I can't put my finger on, but suffice it to say we're going to move there one day.

San Francisco was an adventure, but you had to be there, so I'll not bore you with the details here.

Finally we got to Alex in time for Thanksgiving, where I'm glad to say I experienced some of the finest hospitality I've ever known. Not only that, but I found a pub where I could smoke and I didn't get carded by some twit ten years younger than me. And would you believe, so many people have asked me the ludicrous question, which was my favourite place? Like duh…

A lot of people ask me why I came to America. My favourite answers are "Your Mom" and "Chuck Norris." A lot of people hear that I live in Rome and look at me with such sympathy and befuddlement in their eyes – why would anyone come from there to here? "What attracts you to this land of endless roads, malls, chain restaurants and bad coffee?" I hear them thinking. Well, as I said in my last piece, one of my favourite things to do here is to sit in the passenger seat and watch the world fly by. This is the America that I heard of and expected, and believe it

Take My Advice

Writing Lab	Magale Library 1A Sunday - Thursday	**8:00-10:00pm**
Math Lab	Wright Math Building Sunday - Thursday	**6:00-8:00pm**
Subject Labs	Magale Library 1A	**6:00-9:00pm**
Biology	Monday & Tuesday	
Economics	Monday & Tuesday	
French	Sunday & Monday	
German	Thursday	
History	Sunday & Wednesday	
Physics	Thursday	
Political Science	Sunday & Wednesday	
Psychology	Thursday	
Religious Studies	Monday & Tuesday	
Spanish	Wednesday	

Academic Resource Center for Students (arcs)

Learning and all ARCS services are free to all Centenary Students. If you have any questions contact Dr. Meg Webber or Dr. Kim VanHoosier-Carey at arcs@centenary.edu

www.centenary.edu/arcs

A&E

Broadway on strike: stagehands take to the streets

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

Recently, stagehands for Broadway's biggest shows have been on strike, fighting the issue of job security and staffing flexibility.

They went on strike Saturday, November 10, 2007, after three months of negotiations with the League of American Theatres and Producers, according to USA Today. Talks were said to resume Sunday, November 25 to end this two-week strike that has darkened 26 shows, including "Wicked" and "Phantom of the Opera."

According to Philip Boroff, the most recent talks last weekend, held at the Westin New York at Times Square, ended without a contract for the stagehands and producers. The League wrote to employees with a cause for optimism, as producers have sought more flexible work rules, explaining that they want to pay only for workers they need.

The complicated contract dispute focused more on how many stagehands are needed to open a Broadway play and keep it running – this includes people to move scenery, operate lights, sound systems, and even dress actors.

Last Friday, "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!—The Musical" reopened, being the first Broadway production to do so.

With regards to ticket sales, many tourists are disappointed that they must now miss the shows they paid to see.

According to Carol-Ann Rudy, total ticket sales were $2,933,761 the first week of the strike, compared to the week before with $11,070,673. The gross for the current season is only $413,226,732, which no longer outstrips the previous season of $415,378,215.

"Mary Poppins," "Mauritius," "Pygmalion," "The 25th…Bee," "The Ritz," and "Xanadu" are the few shows up and running during the strike, with "Mary Poppins" topping the box office sales with $1,122,801 and 100% attendance.

The negotiation is said to have been reached and all shows should be opened again as of November 29. However, what that negotiation entails is uncertain; all that is known is that the strike is now over.

Movie review: "The Mist" is good for horror, not so much for the holidays

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

Want to see a nice, heart-warming movie to help you get into the holiday mood?

Then, by all means, watch anything BUT "The Mist."

This sci-fi horror flick, directed by Frank Darabont and filmed in Shreveport, is for die-hard fans of suspense and flesh-eating monsters only.

It helps if you're a Stephen King aficionado, too, as "The Mist" is based on a short novella written by the master of horror. Moreover, the movie screenplay, I'm told, is very faithful to the original story.

FEAR CHANGES EVERYTHING
THE MIST

In both, we start off with a nasty electric storm that devastates a little town. Thus we meet David Drayton (Thomas Jayne), the main protagonist.

David has a loving wife and a little son, whom he loves dearly. He has a good job, a nice house, and he's just a really likeable guy.

Which is why you will honestly empathize with him and why you'll be on the edge of your seat when all hell finally breaks loose.

And when all hell breaks loose, David is serenely shopping at the local supermarket with his son.

It's not like he could've known that a monster-infested mist would suddenly envelop the whole city. Nor could he have known that the store would become a fortress when the locals realize that their only chance of survival is waiting out the (super?)natural weather conditions.

(Tonight, we're expecting occasional showers and a little bit of a mist. Oh, and make sure to lock your doors, folks, because there's a fair chance we'll have some blood-thirsty monsters trying to eat your wives and kids.)

However, if you think that "The Mist" is just a monster movie with little to offer besides gruesomeness, you are wrong.

It's not really about the monsters, or even about the mist – it's about how a group of people can be locked together in a small, enclosed space for a long period of time and not kill each other.

Apparently, King and Darabont do not think it's possible, so the locals at the supermarket spend more time fighting each other than fighting the monsters.

Thus, there's the typical non-believer who thinks that the whole situation is a joke (Brent Norton) and the crazy religious lady who tries to make everyone see that the encompassing death is a sure sign of the coming Apocalypse.

Fortunately, there are also people like Ollie (Toby Jones) and Laurie (Amanda Dumfries), who keep their cool and remain reasonable despite the circumstances. There's also Irene, the kick-ass granny who "ain't afraid of no ghosts" (or monsters), played by Frances Sternhagen.

All in all, "The Mist" is a really good horror movie that relies heavily on psychological suspense. It is definitely worth seeing if you're tired of all the Christmas-y feel-good romantic comedies on TV this time of the year.

But be warned: I do mean it when I say that "The Mist" will NOT get you into the holiday mood. I've seen many horror movies in my life, but few have left me as emotionally drained and depressed as this one.

Movie review: "No Country for Old Men" features stunning performances

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Some movies almost defy description. "No Country for Old Men" is a movie of that nature. However, since this is a review of the movie, I feel that an attempt must be made.

Based on the book by Cormac McCarthy, "No Country for Old Men" is about a man named Llewellyn Moss (Josh Brolin). While hunting deer one afternoon in West Texas, he comes across the scene of a bloody attack, with several dead people and a few dogs too. While there, he encounters a bag full of money and naturally takes it, thus setting off a brutal and unrelenting chase with Mexican criminals, the police (led by Tommy Lee Jones), and a nasty piece of work by the name of Anton Chigurh (Javier Bardem) all in hot pursuit of Llewellyn and the money.

The most striking thing about this film is the performances. Every actor brought his A-game and it shows. Brolin and Jones both showcase terrific work in their respective roles of Moss and Bell, the sheriff who is investigating the murders occurring throughout the movie. Kelly MacDonald, who plays Moss's wife Carla Jean, is also a scene-stealer, mostly because her character is a breath of fresh air everytime she appears on screen.

However, the real star of this movie is Javier Bardem as Chigurh. This character is one of the scariest and most violent characters to ever hit the screen. Everytime he is on screen, something bad is going to happen to someone. Armed with an air gun that is used to kill cows and a shotgun equipped with a silencer (yes, you read that right), he never changes expression and will not hesitate to kill anyone who gets in his way. This guy will go down as one of the greatest movie villains of all time, and I don't say that lightly.

The movie was directed by the Coen Brothers (who also directed "The Big Lebowski" and "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"), so it is a technical marvel and absolutely beautiful to watch. You find yourself completely immersed in this world that they create on screen, which is both beautiful and frequently disturbing.

The movie is very violent, so I warn you ahead of time before going in to watch it. The movie opens with two extremely violent murders and never ceases as it progresses. Anything goes in this film and there are some genuine surprises in store. Don't think that you will have the story figured out, because there are some twists thrown in that ensure you will never figure out what happens next.

However, outside of Bardem's performance, the part of the film that will get the most conversation will be the final act. The final act shows the aftermath of a scene that we have been building to throughout the entire film, but not the actual event itself. There is very little closure to this film, and that will be sure to anger many viewers. While this twist intrigued me, I can see how it will anger many people. It also takes the movie to a more meditative place than expected, but I think if it had ended any other way, the film would have suffered for it.

Overall, this is one of the best films to come out this year. You owe it to yourself to see this film, if only so you can witness the sheer evil of Anton Chigurh. I give "No Country for Old Men" my highest recommendation.

Movie review: "Enchanted" charms audiences with song and dance

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

"Enchanted," the newest Disney movie to hit theatres this past week, has given a new twist to the "happily ever after" scenario. Princess Giselle, played by Amy Adams ("The Wedding Date") has been cast out of her fairy tale world by the Evil Queen Narissa, played by Susan Sarandon ("Mr. Woodcock"). She must face the horrid land of Manhattan and wait for her Prince Edward, played by James Marsden ("X-Men" series and "Hairspray").

However, she finds herself falling in love with the man who rescued her from the streets, Robert Phillip, played by Patrick Dempsey, a tough, divorced, single, non-romantic lawyer who doesn't dance or sing, things that she does constantly. Did I mention he has a daughter?

The entire movie is a typical fairy tale with a modern twist.

No, it's not like "Ever After" or even the live-action version of "Cinderella." It's a new take all on its own, with parades through Central Park and dancing elderly folks, which is adorable, I might add. The film is hilarious in every way possible. I would give examples, but it would ruin it for everyone. Trust me on this.

Animating the first portion of the film helps the audience realize that Giselle has been cast out of what she considers the real world.

It's sort of cheesy at first, with all the animals singing and trolls running around in the forest, but it reminds us all of the Disney Princess movies that we used to watch as children. With how silly they seem now, girls still watch the princesses on screen and wish to be like them. Even now, grown women, such as me, are still watching and wishing they could be a Disney Princess.

The typical chick-flick love story is always fun to go see with girlfriends, but guys, it really is a funny movie. So, if you're in the mood for a good laugh and a good love story (as everyone is), this is the movie to see.

MOVIE TIMES

All times are for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Parentheses indicate matinee showings.

Tinseltown

"The Mist"
(12:25), (3:30), 7:35, 10:25
"Enchanted"
(12:40), (1:20), (3:40), (4:20), 6:45, 7:20, 9:20, 9:55
"No Country for Old Men"
(12:50), (3:50), 6:50, 9:40

Boardwalk

"The Mist"
(12:25), (4:10), 7:00, 10:05
"Enchanted"
(11:30), (12:00), (2:00), (2:30), (4:35), (5:05), 7:10, 7:40, 9:45, 10:15
"No Country for Old Men"
(12:15), (3:50), 6:40, 9:35

CD reviews: The newest in hip-hop and country rock

"Exclusive" is a mostly lackluster sophomore effort from Chris Brown

CHRIS BROWN
EXCLUSIVE

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Chris Brown's sophomore album, "Exclusive," will probably not send him into the dreaded sophomore slump, but it is fueled by two hit singles and unfortunately those singles are the highlights of the album.

Right now Chris Brown is the most popular young, black R&B singer. He doesn't have to exert the same amount of effort he had to with his first release when he was trying to make a name for himself in the music industry and had Omarion, Sammy, and Mario as possible competition. "Exclusive" reflects his lackluster effort.

"Exclusive" has some heavy up-tempo tracks like "Gimme Whatcha Got" featuring Lil' Wayne and "Throwed." But it mostly has mid-tempo songs like "Picture Perfect" featuring Will.I.Am and "Lottery."

Other guest appearances include Big Boi, Game, and Kanye West. The Kanye West collaboration "Down" is the best song on the album, save for the released singles, "Kiss, Kiss" featuring T. Pain and "Wall to Wall."

Chris Brown's main fans are preteen and early teenaged girls. "Exclusive" almost alienates them. This might hurt his career, because parents can deal with "Yo!" from his first album, but not too many parents want to hear their daughter reciting "She had her tank top on; I took her tank top off," which is in Brown's song "Damage," or "It ain't my first time but baby girl we can pretend," which is in "Take You Down." Many of his songs sound the same or have the same premise: he is 18 and having sex. Only time will tell if this will help or hurt his career.

Many songs on "Exclusive" sound like generic or watered-down versions of other songs. Chris Brown has bad replicas, not remakes but songs that sound too similar to songs by Prince, Beyoncé, and Michael Jackson. I am saddened because I wanted Chris Brown's album to be good.

Chris Brown does manage to entice the listener. I am curious as to how he will perform certain songs live. However, that should not be the focus of the album. The performance, or visual interpretation of the song, should enhance, not substitute for the song. I am disappointed that the majority of my listening time was spent wondering how the performance was going to go. That just goes to show how much of a bad album "Exclusive" is.

The good things about the album are few and far between. The album cover is pretty, colorful and has a good font. Wal-Mart has an exclusive two-pack with a DVD showing a Chris Brown interview of the making of "Exclusive" and some of his appearances and performances on BET'S "106th and Park." It also has the making of some of his videos. The DVD surpasses the album tremendously. I cannot recommend this album to anyone who is a fan of Chris Brown for fear that they may change. However, if you still want to purchase this album, get the two-pack from Wal-Mart in order to feel like you got your money's worth.

Soulja Boy's "Souljaboytellem.com" provides fun-loving dance tracks

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Yuuuaa!!! Souljaboytellem.com, the first album from Soulja Boy, is a fun-loving CD that is good and does not rely on the hit single "Crank That (Soulja Boy)" to fuel the album.

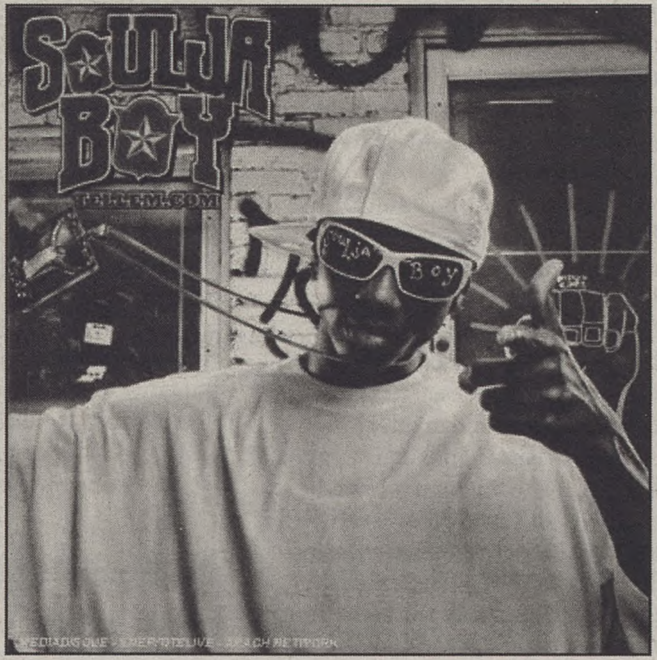
Soulja Boy is seventeen and his album reflects that youth. He's not rapping about guns, drugs, and whores. Soulja Boy stays true to his age bracket. Though some may think his style and song choices are too immature, I like them. The album takes me back to being footloose and fancy-free. It is a fun album and it causes the listener to laugh and be happy.

Souljaboytellem.com details things that are important to many teens. "Bapes" is a song about Bathing Ape sneakers. Soulja Boy also raps about his "Report Card." His fascination with the opposite sex is heard in "Booty Meat." "Sidekick" is the best song like this because he talks about his Sidekick III and concludes with, "Man I can't believe that I'm rapping 'bout a phone, but what you won't believe is I wrote this song on my Sidekick."

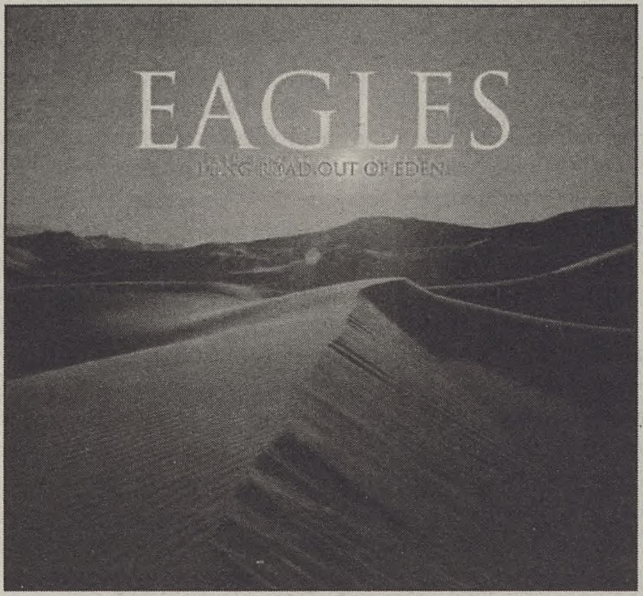
"Crank That (Soulja Boy)" is not the only dance on the album. "Snap and Roll" is a dance track and so is "Shootout," which has a funny disclaimer. Both dances are detailed so the listener will know exactly how to perform them.

Souljaboytellem.com has only two guest appearances and they come from I-15 on "Soulja Girl" and Soulja Boy's friend Arab, who is featured on "Bapes" and "Pass it to Arab." He can also be heard on the song with Soulja Boy's term to get annoying people out of your face, "Yahhh!"

I recommend Souljaboytellem.com to those who want to laugh and hear good, lighthearted music.



Legendary band's masterpiece fulfills expectations



Jonathan Hedley
Contributing Writer

"If this is the end of our recording career as a group, then I think we're all pretty satisfied and pretty proud that this was our last musical statement." That was Don Henley's conclusive statement in a recent interview with CMT about "Long Road Out Of Eden," the band's first new album since 1979. A two-CD batch of never-before-heard songs by the legends of countrified rock, the album has, of course, shot to No.1. Quite a bold statement considering the back catalogue of this band, so is it justified, or will Messrs Henley, Walsh and company be quietly counting their earnings at the cost of their reputations a year from now?

At first it seems as if the general theme here is the same old working formulas with new and original material; not breaking any new ground, but in this day and age just repeatedly coming up with consistently good songs is an achievement in itself, and one only attained by those artists who founded the institution in the first place. "How Long," Track two on the first disc, sets the scene, flowing along with the ease of "Peaceful Easy Feeling" but with a more Dylan-esque melancholy to the lyrics that seems to come with age.

We then move into a slower limbo, more reminiscent of some of the songs in the band's repertoire that infuriate lovers of the distinctive gritty rock edge that made them special. But they always did do a large proportion of slush just to keep their bread and butter country bed-wetting fan base happy. A trademark of these songs, and the Joe Walsh/ Eagles love-hate relationship, is that subtle yet searing guitar that rings out of the background, almost as if Walsh is protesting at the dirge at the front. "What Do I Do With My Heart" is a romantic ballad that supports the theory that Eagles produce music to make love to, but come the vocally acute "I Don't Want To Hear Any More" and yet again Walsh has his say.

So, I was just beginning to wonder if I'd accidentally picked up a Stevie Wonder CD when possibly my favourite track of the album, "Waiting In The Weeds," blows all of the above out of the water. "If finding love is just a dance, proximity and chance, you will excuse me if I skip the masquerade," sings Henley – an old man's wisdom with a young man's broken heart. This is undoubtedly the most poignant track on the album, but then we crescendo into an almost ethereal gem, with shades and layers I'd never have associated with the Eagles. And you know what? Joe's behaving himself in this one! It's like, does he tone it down when the melody's good and just start rudely blurting when it's a dirge?

Disc two opens with the title track and out of ten minutes and 15 seconds you have to expect something special – and here is where it all starts to get interesting! Opening up like the soundtrack to the latest Indiana Jones movie, it's a bit hard to tell where this one's going at first, but it's refreshing to say the least. Meanwhile, Joe's playing heavy metal in the next room like his guitar just attacked him and he's trying to strangle it into submission. Then crescendo, searing solo, interruptions, experiments and a musical tour de force that is, dare I say it, verging on Floyd?

Is this one a masterpiece or just an impression? I think in years to come only die-hard Eagles fans will listen to it, but one thing is for sure, the album now suddenly becomes much more spiritual than any of their previous material, as testified by the sublime and peaceful instrumental "I Dreamed There Was No War."

Moving on into the gritty sound of the Eagles we really love and "Somebody" answers the critics of disc one with energetic bouncing bass, snaky guitar – not just snaky, positively devilish - interesting illusions on the keyboard and more tribute to Dylan in the vocals. This track is slick, sarcastic and scathing - and a great concert track.

Immediately after it is "Frail Grasp On The Big Picture" and the meaty rock, scathing attitude and ever-pioneering guitar pyrotechnics meet a political voice now no longer beating around the Bush: "And we pray to our Lord, who we know is American…he speaks to us through middlemen… he supports us in war, he presides over football games." Voices, shades, surprises - things are coming from every direction now and it's both thrilling and fulfilling - this is modern music! I don't mean it's what modern artists produce; I mean it's a feast for stimulus addicts.

Without Joe Walsh, the band would produce so much slush that the good parts would be drowned out. The godfather of guitarists is the star of this album. "Last Good Time In Town" is his personal contribution: "I dream I'm on vacation, 'cause I like the way that sounds" – shades of his solo classic "Life's Been Good" in the absurdity of a rock legend's life.

I bought this album in Wal-Mart for the price of a beer and a half in Superior and I'd say it's the best bargain I've found this year, especially if you're an Eagles fan. It demonstrates, as Dylan did with his 2006 album "Modern Times," that there's so much mediocrity around today that all an old master has to do is step foot in the studio and he'll have the world eating out of his hand.

Final Exam Schedule

Day 1, Friday, Dec.
T1 (8:20) 8:30 – 11:30 am
M7 (2:00) 2:00 -- 5:00 pm
T6 (5:30) 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Day 2, Saturday OR Sunday, Dec. 15,16
M3 (10:00) 8:30 – 11:30 am
M5 (12:00) 2:00 – 5:00 pm
T7 (7:00) 6:00 -- 9:00 pm

Day 3, Monday, Dec. 17
M9 (5:00) 8:00-- 11:00pm
M2 (9:00) 8:00 – 11:00 am
T2 (9:45) 12:00 – 3:00 pm
T4 (2:00) 4:00 – 7:00 pm
M10 (6:30) 8:00 – 11:00 pm

Day 4, Tuesday, Dec. 18
M4 (11:00) 8:00 – 11:00 am
T3 (12:35) 12:00 – 3:00 pm
M8 (3:30) 4:00 – 7:00 pm
M11 (8:00) 8:00 – 11:00 pm

Day 5, Wednesday, Dec. 19
M1 (8:00) 8:00 – 11:00 am
M6 (1:00) 12:00 – 3:00 pm
T5 (3:30) 4:00 – 7:00 pm

For periods not listed above, the Professor will choose an exam time corresponding to the nearest listed exam time

Good Luck!

Writers strike in Hollywood; TV and movie fans sad

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

For you fans of late night TV shows like Jay Leno, Conan O'Brien, Stephen Colbert, etc., you may have been wondering why they haven't been airing new episodes recently. Well, the answer is very simple; the writers for these shows, and every other show and film in Hollywood, have been on strike since November 5, when their contracts with the studios expired.

Why have they been on strike, you might ask? Well, the answer is both simple and a little hard to explain.

In Hollywood, writers are only paid based on the first airing of the TV show or movie that they work on, i.e. the television airing, the re-run of an episode, or the theatrical exhibition of a movie. For DVD sales, which are the primary source of income for the movie industry (around 4 billion dollars a year), writers are given a very small percentage of the profits (0.3%).

However, the main issue of the strike is that writers are not paid at all for "new media" uses of their work. This means that they are not paid when a show or film is sold on the internet, through downloads, streaming, and even video-on-demand on satellites.

This means that a growing proportion of the sales of copyrighted material is not even available for the writers at all.

The Writer's Guild of America (or WGA) is currently asking that writers are paid 2.5% of the new media sales and given a better deal on the sale of DVDs. However, recent reports into the negotiations between the studios and the WGA have stated that the DVD part of the negotiation has been tabled so that an agreement can be reached on the new media front.

Of course, most people could care less about the technical details of the strike. They just want to know when their favorite TV shows will be back on the air. All late night shows are in re-runs and shows like "The Office," "30 Rock," "Heroes," and "Bionic Woman" have finished all the completed episodes with none being shot until the writers are back in the studio. Other shows, like "24" and possibly "Lost," will not air until the strike ends because the producers of the shows do not wish to split the shows because of their serial nature.

Also expect a rise in reality shows in the coming months, with new shows like "Password" and a new version of "American Gladiators" starting next spring.

Recent reports indicate that the strike could be over as soon as Christmas, however, magazines like Variety state that they are expecting the strike to end around March sometime.

Until that time, fans of TV will have to wait it out for their favorite shows and try to find something else to bide their time. I always heard that reading was a good alternative to TV and movies, but that is just something that I heard.

Movie review: "The Darjeeling Limited" provides an exotic, emotional adventure

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

Disclaimer: The following review contains spoilers!

There may not be any other art form that can make me feel better about my life than a Wes Anderson film.

Anderson's handcraft-like films always remind me of the gifts my artist friends make me for my birthday: flawed, unique, and beautiful. "The Darjeeling Limited" still offers the same quality of sentiment and vulnerability but with a slightly darker undertone.

"Darjeeling" focuses on a trio of brothers: Francis (Owen Wilson), Jack (Jason Schwartzman), and Peter (Adrien Brody). All three brothers are defined through their attachment to certain material objects.

Francis is attached to an expensive leather belt, Peter will not part ways with a pair of sunglasses that had once belonged to their father, and Jack has a fancy for the train's savory snacks and the stewardess who provides them.

The brothers share a large, loud, matching set of luggage that also once belonged to their father to emphasize that these brothers are carrying the emotional baggage of their father's death throughout the journey.

The Indian excursion the brothers are on was planned by Francis, who simply wishes for them to be "brothers like [they] used to be." Though with good intentions, it is a bit more than obvious that Francis really just wants Peter and Jack to give in to his micromanaged agenda.

It's the conflict that arises from the brothers' resistance to this idea that provides a lot of awkwardly humorous moments. Perhaps it is the reality of the film and how the viewers can relate it to their own familial difficulties and experiences that provides the very vulnerable humor Anderson's films are so well-known for.

Throughout the film, there are excerpts of brief moments in the brothers' histories. Their father has died, their mother (Angelica Huston) has run away to become a nun in Tibet, they all have failed, they have all had various disappointing relationships with friends and lovers, but the melancholy is never quite perfectly placed in the film.

The brothers are finally able to accept death, life, and their now-petty problems when they witness the death of an Indian child from a local village. The brothers finally bond, as they tried to do so many times previously in the film, by visiting the village where the deceased child lived.

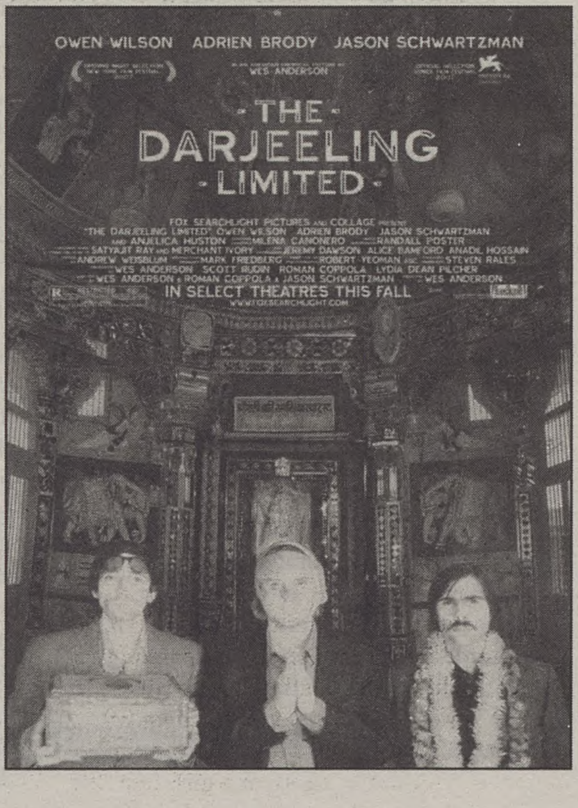
They participate in the funeral ritual for the child and, as a result, come to terms with their own realities. As the brothers run to board their final train together in India, they shed their father's suitcases on the ground and move on to their next adventure without them.

Anderson's films may not be action-packed or keep you on the edge of your seat, but they certainly make the viewers reflect on their own lives and ultimate vulnerability.

The soundtrack highlights these emotions perfectly, often paired with one of Anderson's famously dramatic slow motion sequences.

It is difficult to watch one of his films and not feel completely exposed, however.

A lot of the art in the film is also expressed through the perfectly placed scenery and colors. A gift for the eyes, ears, and soul, "The Darjeeling Limited" is an exotic adventure through one's own psyche.


OWEN WILSON ADRIEN BRODY JASON SCHWARTZMAN
WES ANDERSON
THE DARJEELING LIMITED
FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES AND COLLAGE
IN SELECT THEATRES THIS FALL

Bite-Sized Theatre: A Night of New Play Readings

Featuring plays written by Centenary Students John Cassaro, Sophia Tolliver, and Jenni Loer.

This Thursday, December 6th at 8:00 and Sunday, December 9th at 2:00 at the Marjorie Lyons Playhouse.

Also, join us on Friday night at 8:00 for an Open Mic Night! Come share your poetry with the rest of the Centenary Community!

And here's the best part: FREE FOOD!

We'll see you there!

Send us your secrets!

In honor of the newly released Post Secret book A Lifetime of Secrets the Conglomerate will be printing secrets of Centenary students.

In order to particpate take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box number 786 or slip it under the Conlgomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.

Some tips....

Be brief - the fewer the words the better

Be legible - use big, clear, and bold lettering

Be creative - let the postcard be your canvas

Visit www.postsecret.com for inspiration

Reality TV satire: A shot at love is better than being shot at

Kat Michiels
Not a Sports Writer

Recently, a show has come around that I am shamefully, awfully, embarrassedly addicted to: "A Shot at Love With Tila Tequila." That's right- remember the chick from MySpace who asked to be your friend a few days after you signed up? She now has her own reality show. Poor Tila- she's a bisexual trying to figure out if she wants a guy or a girl, and I have been watching the eliminations pretty consistently. In fact, I have not actually cheered for a person in a reality show this insistently since the days of Adam from Average Joe.

Not only does Tila not know if she wants a guy or a girl, but "it's getting so hard" the further she goes along. Wow, Tila, who would have seen that coming? Call me politically incorrect, but most bisexuals don't eventually decide whether they want to have a guy or a girl- that's the whole point of being a bisexual. Good luck, Tila.

In the spirit of being politically incorrect, take a moment to appreciate Tila's "Shot at Love," which sounds great compared to these other reality shows coming out of the woodwork.

1. "Boyz n the Hood: Crips v. Bloods": The blue team and the red team compete weekly in a series of competitions designed to test their street skillz. Like all reality shows, this one has its share of drama: Curtis, a member of the blue team, was shot nine times a few weeks ago after winning the "suitcase" challenge.

2. "Leave Britney Alone!": Millions of teenage girls around the world came to Louisiana last year to audition for this reality show. Britney Spears is looking for someone who will be her forever faithful friend, and while in rehab on heavy medication, she came up with a series of challenges to test the girls' loyalty. Persons entering the competition had to watch this year's MTV Music Awards with a straight face. Last week, contestants were forced to shave their heads or be eliminated.

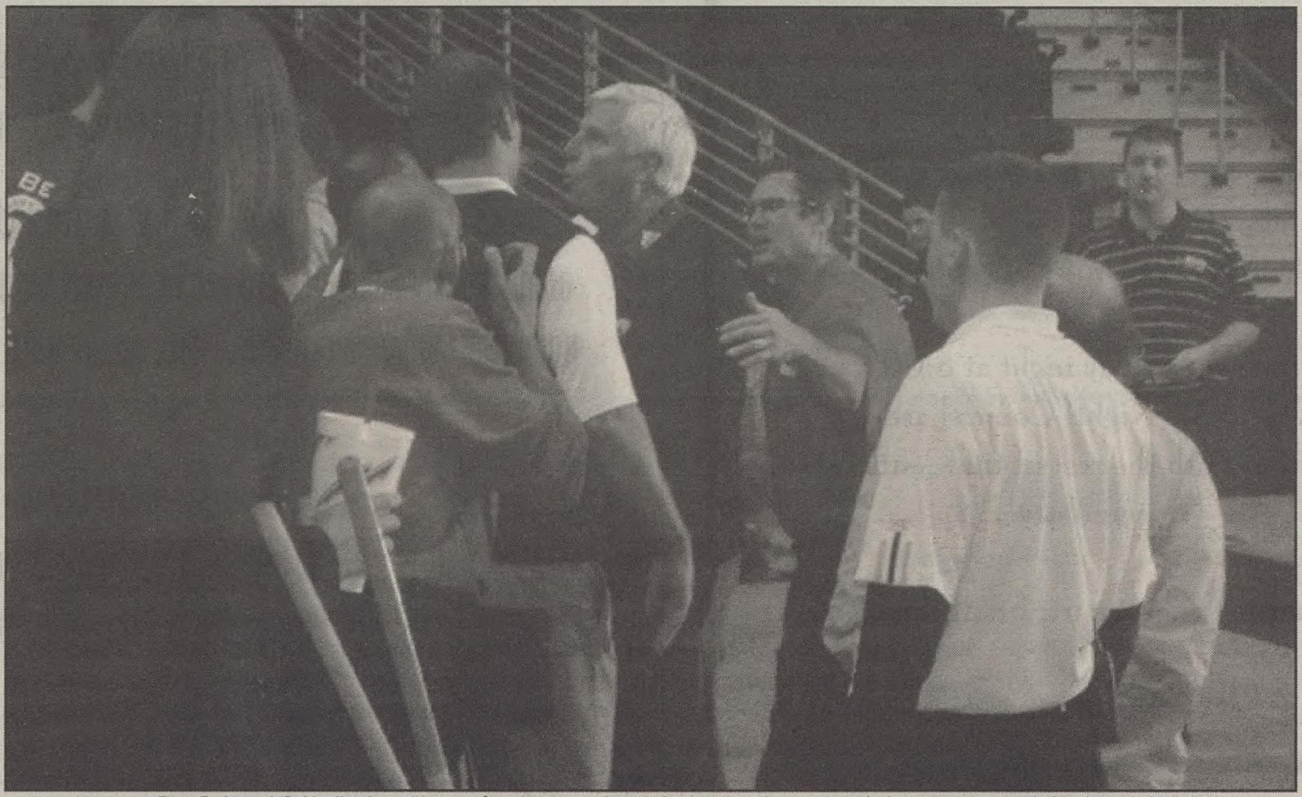
3. "Survivor: Cannibal Island": Er...yeah...I won't go there, but it involved chestnuts and an open fire. Don't read too much into the word chestnuts.

4. "Beauty and the Beast": In a show that premiered on FOX aiming to prove that gay marriage is an abomination, the second runner-up in the 2003 Miss America pageant will choose her true love from a variety of animals. Contestants include a wallaby, a penguin, and a bison.

5. "Celebrity Justice": America votes for nine Supreme Court Justices, but have the option of keeping the current justices in office. So far, Hilary Duff has replaced Antonin Scalia and Chief Justice Roberts has been replaced by Oprah. The network is currently planning a sequel: "Celebrity President," which Florida refuses to air on its networks.

SPORTS

Centenary wrecks Tech all Knight long



Texas Tech coach Bobby Knight exchanges a few choicec words with Centenary students at Saturday's game. Poto provided by Amanda Russell.

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

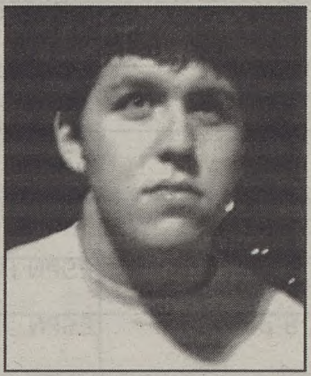
"Bobby Knight... You SUCK!" The crowd was adamant about that. As cheers and jeers of the fans of Centenary bounced off the walls of the CenturyTel Center in Bossier City, no one expected the "Knight" that was quickly approaching. Centenary moved quickly in the first half, starting off with a relatively large lead in the first seven minutes of play. Sharp shooting by triple-threat Nick Stallings, Tyrone Hamilton, and Chase Adams caused a quick uneasiness to coach Bobby Knight and Red Raider fans. As the half seemed to fly by, the Raiders jumped back ahead to close the first 20 minutes of game play at 35-32. The Gents, happy with their first half performance, ran back to the locker rooms. Now is when the fun begins.

As the Red Raiders' bench was making its way back to the locker rooms, a group of about 20 Centenary students (no one organization/team in particular) screamed–as Bobby Knight was walking by–"Oh shit, he's got a gun!" The crowd quickly fell to its knees in fear of an unexpected bullet to fly from the furious hands of Bobby Knight. Bobby Knight lifted his rifle and began firing into the crowd, screaming, "No Mercy! Mother of God, No Mercy!" Okay, so I'm kidding. But that probably would've happened if everyone was just outside hanging out with him, minding our own business. Anywho, Bobby Knight–so pissed–walked over to the crowd of students (no one organization/team in particular) and began to point his finger, telling them what he thought about the game. "I was scared!" said Centenary student Aaron Bronson. "The guy doesn't even have a gun license, and he's walking around in the stadium with a firearm!" After Bobby finished not only cussing out the students (no one organization/team in particular) but his own coach as well, he made his way slowly to the back never to return again.

As the second half started, the Raiders boosted to a quick 14-point lead over the Gents. Gradually, the Gents began to come back and make a game out of the potential embarrassing defeat. With seconds left, sophomore Chase Adams darted through the lane, only to pass it off to Lance "He's a Bad Man" Hill with the power lay-up. With a failed three-pointer by the Raiders, junior Nick Stallings took the rebound and the foul, making both of his free-throws to secure the win. The crowd burst into cheers as the final seconds ran out, and students jumped the railing to rush the court with the celebrating players. That night, Centenary got the best of not only the Red Raiders but the legend known as Bobby Knight. The Lubbock newspapers all read that he had "flu-like" symptoms and was just too tired at the game. But we all know why he didn't show back up. It's because the fierce and powerful roars and jeers of the students (oh hell, it was the freaking baseball players and some of their friends) called him out on a public mistake he made. We may never play Texas Tech in Louisiana again, but they will remember us. Oh, they will remember us. Go Gents!

Jarboe Jabber- Paying to Watch the NFL

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor



I'm a Cowboys fan. There, I said it. I can do that. I'm the Sports Editor, baby! No one can stop me! But I do have a problem, my friends, that I think you can share with me. The other night, for one of the biggest games of the NFL (pretty much deciding who's going to go on and clinch the conference) I was forced to drive away from campus, away from cable, away from an easily accessed television channel, to watch a game. What is that all about? I'm so confused at how the whole system works. The NFL Network (one of the dish channels) bought the game when the hype was starting to build, causing the only availability for a person who doesn't have a dish to be to go to a restaurant or friend's house to watch the game. Is there something wrong about that to you? The National Football League should be disgusted with themselves about this channel and TV organization. What's going to happen one day when the NFL Network buys the Super Bowl? What happens in this situation? Are there only going to be NFL commercials? Can you not flip it on at your own house in the relaxation of your own living room? It makes me sick! Regardless, the Cowboys won the game over Green Bay, they're now 11-1, and I ate some pretty fantastic wings at Wing Express (which I highly suggest). Can we stop this death machine of a television channel, or are we going to be smothered by the money-hungry hands of the National Football League? Go Cowboys!

The Conglomerate presents: The life of a Centenary athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

This week has been filled with exciting wins by our basketball teams. Sporting the maroon and white throughout campus and into Centurytel Center has made this week an enjoyable one to say the least. Not much has been going on with our softball team since the end of our fall games. Like I said the past few weeks, we are just continuing to condition and prepare for our much anticipated season filled with big time teams posted our schedule. On a side note, I want to give a shout out to the Ladies softball team who participated in the Regional Flag Football Intramural Championship this past week.

I have been working in and out of the Sports Information offices the last couple of weeks and have learned so much in preparation for a career in a little over a year. I mean, my first Centenary basketball game to work, I was assigned to work with the television station broadcasting the game between the Gents and Texas Tech. I have to admit, I was a bit nervous considering I was new to this entire field, but in the end I learned so much. By the way, if you didn't make the biggest game all year versus Texas Tech, you were missing out. The Gents played so well in a clean game of college basketball (except for the unexpected brawl between the Centenary baseball players and Bobby Knight).

Also this week, both our women's and men's teams took on Northwestern State. An I-49 rival that sent Northwestern State home with two losses. Like I said, a week full of sports highlights and exciting moments took place and I guarantee no one who calls themselves a student here at Centenary can be at all disappointed. Congrats to those athletes who represented Centenary in such a positive way. It takes more than dedication and a fight to win those big games; it takes support and positive reinforcements on all parts.

Softball team competes in flag football tournament

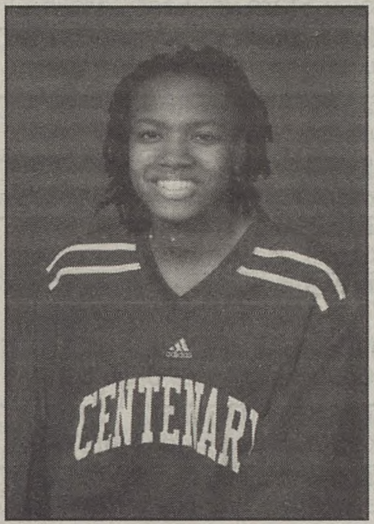
Ryan Thacker
Staff Writer

After placing second in the State Flag Football Tournament in Baton Rouge, the Ladies Softball team advanced to the Regional Tournament at Southern Mississippi.

The Softball Ladies, with the help of a few other athletes, began the tournament Saturday morning with a 28-6 win over the University of Alabama. With their heads held high, the Ladies headed onto the field and took an unfortunate loss to Florida A&M - 47-14. The Ladies went back into play on Sunday and took another unfortunate, but close, loss to the University of West Florida, with a score of 22-26.

The Ladies ended up taking third in the tournament behind both University of West Florida and Florida A&M. This was decided by the number of points scored. Southern, who placed fourth, beat the Ladies at State; however, since the Ladies scored more points against Florida A&M (14) than Southern (0), the Ladies rightfully earned the third-place seat. A valiant effort by the Ladies of Centenary may prove to be the start of future appearances at the state level of flag football.

Athlete of the Week: Centenary basketball legacy enjoys the freedom of college



Ryan Thacker
Staff Writer

Full Name: Ashley Lauren Jackson
Classification: Freshman
Hometown: Shreveport, LA
Major: Philosophy
Sport: Women's Basketball
Position(s): Forward

Why did you choose to come to Centenary?

I liked the direction the program was going in under Coach Curtis. My parents attended this school and played basketball too.

How long have you been playing? Since third grade.

What do you look forward to the most this season? A winning season, and getting better as a team.

How do you feel about beginning your freshman year in Division 1 basketball? I'm excited. My teammates and I have a great opportunity to do special things in the next few years.

Is the college experience what you expected so far?

Yes, I love the freedom. I love the school and I love my team. The beginning of this year has taught me that my four years here can be the best years of my life if I work hard.

2007-08 College Football Bowl Schedule

BOWL	LOCATION	DATE/TIME	
San Diego CCU Poinsettia *Utah* vs. *Navy*	San Diego	Dec. 20, 9 p.m.	ESPN HD
R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl *Memphis* vs. *Florida Atlantic*	New Orleans	Dec. 21, 8 p.m.	ESPN2 HD
Papajohns.com Bowl *Southern Miss* vs. *Cincinnati*	Birmingham, Ala.	Dec. 22, 1 p.m.	ESPN2 HD
New Mexico *Nevada* vs. *New Mexico*	Albuquerque, N.M.	Dec. 22, 4:30 p.m.	ESPN HD
Pioneer Las Vegas *UCLA* vs. *BYU*	Las Vegas	Dec. 22, 8 p.m.	ESPN HD
Sheraton Hawaii *Boise State* vs. *East Carolina*	Honolulu	Dec. 23, 8 p.m.	ESPN
Motor City *Purdue* vs. *Central Michigan*	Detroit	Dec. 26, 7:30 p.m.	ESPN HD
Pacific Life Holiday *Arizona State* vs. *Texas*	San Diego	Dec. 27, 8 p.m.	ESPN HD
Champs Sports *Boston College* vs. *Michigan State*	Orlando, Fla.	Dec. 28, 5 p.m.	ESPN HD
Texas *TCU* vs. *Houston*	Houston	Dec. 28, 8 p.m.	NFL Network
Emerald *Maryland* vs. *Oregon State*	San Francisco	Dec. 28, 8:30 p.m.	ESPN HD
Meineke Car Care *UConn* vs. *Wake Forest*	Charlotte, N.C.	Dec. 29, 1 p.m.	ESPN HD
AutoZone Liberty *UCF* vs. *Mississippi State*	Memphis, Tenn.	Dec. 29, 4:30 p.m.	ESPN HD
Valero Alamo *Penn State* vs. *Texas A&M*	San Antonio	Dec. 29, 8 p.m.	ESPN HD
PetroSun Independence *Alabama* vs. *Colorado*	Shreveport, La.	Dec. 30, 8 p.m.	ESPN HD
Bell Helicopter Armed Forces *California* vs. *Air Force*	Fort Worth, Texas	Dec. 31, 12:30 p.m.	ESPN
Roady's Humanitarian *Georgia Tech* vs. *Fresno State*	Boise, Idaho	Dec. 31, 2 p.m.	ESPN2
Brut Sun *South Florida* vs. *Oregon*	El Paso, Texas	Dec. 31, 2 p.m.	CBS
Gaylord Hotels Music City *Kentucky* vs. *Florida State*	Nashville, Tenn.	Dec. 31, 4 p.m.	ESPN HD
Insight *Indiana* vs. *Oklahoma State*	Tempe, Ariz.	Dec. 31, 6 p.m.	NFL Network
Chick-fil-A *Clemson* vs. *Auburn*	Atlanta	Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m.	ESPN HD
Outback *Wisconsin* vs. *Tennessee*	Tampa, Fla.	Jan. 1, 2008, 11 a.m.	ESPN HD
AT&T Cotton *Missouri* vs. *Arkansas*	Dallas	Jan. 1, 2008, 11:30 a.m.	FOX
Gator *Texas Tech* vs. *Virginia*	Jacksonville, Fla.	Jan. 1, 2008, 1 p.m.	CBS
Capital One *Michigan* vs. *Florida*	Orlando, Fla.	Jan. 1, 2008, 1 p.m.	ABC HD
Rose Bowl presented by Citi *Illinois* vs. *USC*	Pasadena, Calif.	Jan. 1, 2008, 4:30 p.m.	ABC HD
Allstate Sugar *Hawaii* vs. *Georgia*	New Orleans	Jan. 1, 2008, 8:30 p.m.	FOX
Tostitos Fiesta *Oklahoma* vs. *West Virginia*	Glendale, Ariz.	Jan. 2, 2008, 8 p.m.	FOX
FedEx Orange *Virginia Tech* vs. *Kansas*	Miami	Jan. 3, 2008, 8 p.m.	FOX
International *Rutgers* vs. *Ball State*	Toronto	Jan. 5, 2008, Noon	ESPN2 HD
GMAC *Bowling Green* vs. *Tulsa*	Mobile, Ala.	Jan. 6, 2008, 8 p.m.	ESPN HD
Allstate BCS Championship Game *LSU* vs. *Ohio State*	New Orleans	Jan. 7, 2008, 8 p.m.	FOX

How it all happened: An LSU chance for glory

John Cefalu
Staff Writer

As I was preparing for the LSU game on a Saturday afternoon, my roommate had the wishful thinking to bring up the possibility of LSU getting another shot at the national championship. My reply was indifferent to his unceasing hope for a second chance. He told me that Missouri and West Virginia, #1 and #2 in the BCS standings, had to lose in order for this to happen. And how could this happen again? He happened to inform me, as well, that all season long the number one and two teams had kept dropping from defeat whether it was from a highly competitive ranked opponent or an unexpected upset. The two happened to occur as I am sure that everyone is aware of by now. West Virginia and Missouri both lost on a miserable Saturday night, losing definite hopes to a BCS national championship game. And how could this happen again?

Now that the BCS standings are final, Ohio State is on top by a mile with #2 LSU trailing behind, causing debate with two other teams for that second ranked position, Oklahoma and Georgia continue to dread the idea of missing out on that championship game. Should Oklahoma have been in the top two? What about Georgia? Georgia has outscored its opponents in the second half of the season by 21 or more points. Oklahoma dismantled the number one team in the nation. And what about undefeated Hawaii, 12-0? I guess the year will always be remembered as the wildest year in college football history, marked by the first year that a two-loss team, LSU, will by making an appearance in the national championship. But if we could forget, for just a moment, about how our favorite teams could have been, we can see a great listing of bowl games for the upcoming month. To the left is a recap of where you can find your team playing December through January.

LSU makes it to the National Championship game

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

In what has to be one of the strangest occurrences in college football history (and an already bizarre weekend for local sports fans – you know what I am talking about, huh, Gent fans?), Louisiana State University will be competing for the national championship for the second time in four years.

Why is it so strange? Well, as most of you know, LSU has acquired two losses this year, both in triple-overtime games, to a ranked Kentucky team and an unranked Arkansas team at Tiger Stadium. In a normal season, this would get them a bowl, but not a BCS bowl.

However, this has not been a normal season. With perennial powers being beaten by teams they normally trounce (Michigan and Appalachian State & USC and Stanford) and upsets occurring every week (the first and second place teams were replaced seven times this season), it is really not that surprising to find LSU competing in the National Championship game against college powerhouse Ohio State, who also competed for the title last year, only to be defeated by Florida.

So, just how did this turn of events occur? Well, going into Saturday, LSU was number seven in the rankings. Missouri and West Virginia were ranked number one and two, respectively. However, they both suffered losses in their conference title games. Missouri lost to Oklahoma 38-17 and West Virginia lost to Pitt at home, with the score being 13-9.

Both teams had each suffered one loss by this point, but being beaten Saturday gave them two losses and pushed them lower in the rankings.

LSU, having won the SEC championship, having gone unbeaten in regulation this season, and through some crazy situations that are too complex to recount here, managed to secure the bid to play in the game.

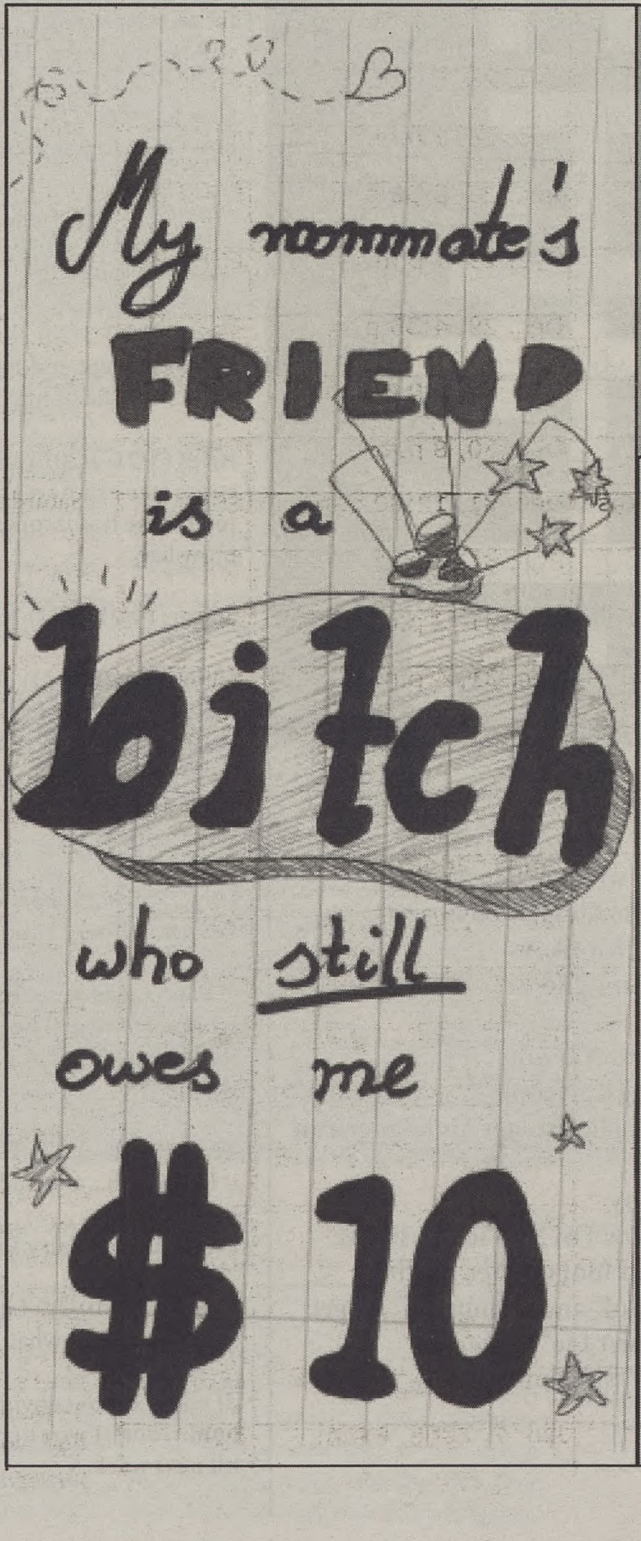
So, now that LSU is playing for the national championship in college football, where will they be playing and is it possible to acquire tickets? Well, in this case, the answer to the first question is that they will be playing in New Orleans on the 7th of January. It seems fitting that they will play here, at least in the eyes of Tiger fans, since this is the city where they beat Oklahoma to win their last title.

The answer to the second question is a no because they are sold out. Nevertheless, you can pay some extreme prices for tickets on eBay. A quick search through eBay found that you are going to pay upwards of a thousand dollars for two tickets, with some even being sold for 4,000 dollars.

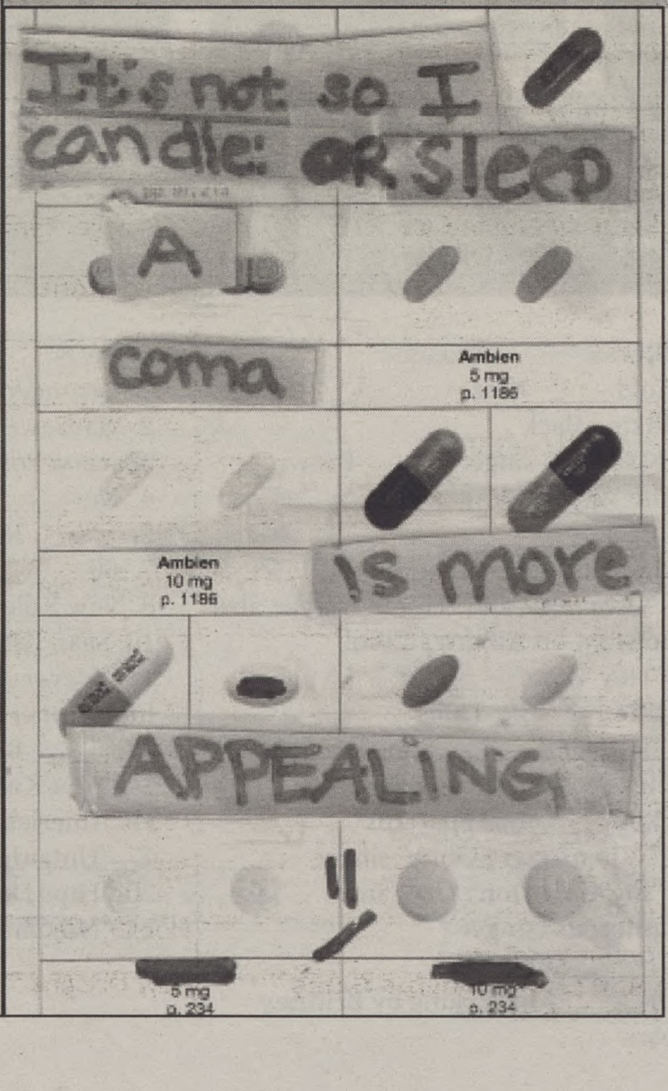
Most people will be watching the game from the comforts of their own homes, or possibly at a bar or party, when it happens on January 7 on Fox.

Centenary Secrets

In honor of the newly released Post Secret book
"Lifetime of Secrets" the Conglomerate will be printing s
Secrets of Centenary students.
In order to participate take a postcard and tell your
secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box #786
or slip it under the Conglomerate Office door on the
third floor of the SUB.



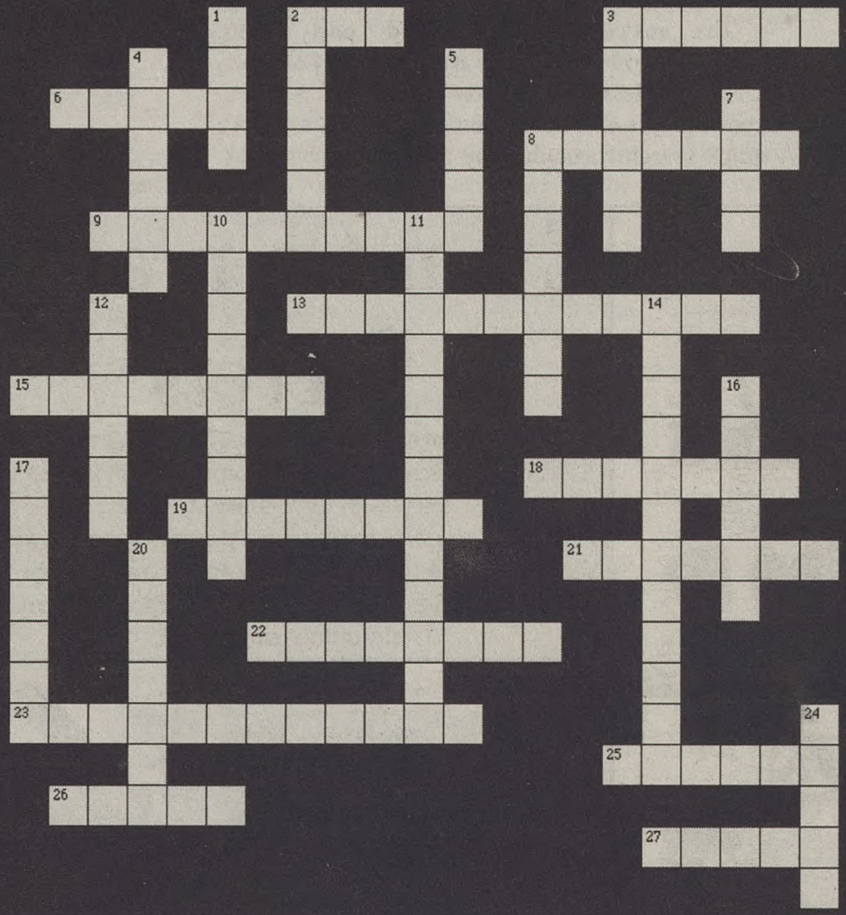
My roommate's FRIEND is a bitch who still owes me $10



It's not so I candle: OR sleep A coma is more APPEALING

Ambien
5 mg
p. 1186
Ambien
10 mg
p. 1186
5 mg
p. 234
10 mg
p. 234

CROSSWORD PUZZLE:
ON THE RADIO



ACROSS
2. Cold _____ Kids
3. Taking Back _______
6. "Kiss Kiss" singer ______ Brown
8. The White _______
9. Justin ________
13. "Say it Right" singer
15. "Over You" and "Home" singer, also contestant on American Idol
18. "Hey There ______"
19. The ________ Dolls
21. "Potential ______ Song" sung by Disney sensation Aly & AJ
22. Red _______ Apparatus
23. "When You're Gone" singer
25. "Big Girls Don't Cry" and "Glamorous" singer
26. ______ White T's
27. "______ More" sung by Brittney Spears

DOWN
1. "Stronger" singer Kanye _____
2. Maroon 5 song "Makes Me _______"
3. Scary, Posh, Ginger, Baby and ______
4. The _____ Monkeys
5. ______ Minogue
7. 50 ______
8. New Killers Album
10. Sean Kingston song "_______ Girls"
11. "Never Again" singer and American Idol winner
12. _____ Boy
14. "You Know I'm No Good" singer
16. American Idol winner Jordin ______
17. "Unfaithful" and "Umbrella" singer
20. "Hips Don't Lie" singer
24. "No One" singer Alicia ______

Horoscopes

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) Can you hear what I hear? That is the sound of every person on campus screaming in frustration or possibly the maniacal laughter of professors... hard to tell isn't it?

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) You will be extremely successful on your exams.... unless you don't study, and then you will fail miserably. Good luck!

Capricorn (12/22 –1/20) Your grades will either improve or worsen this semester. Have I enlightened you?

Aquarius (1/21-2/19) Ever think you would be very successful as a B.S. major... no I mean Brittney Spears. What were you thinking?

Pisces (2/20-3/20) Nobody is happy when something breaks. Except condoms.... because that always results in such a bundle of fun! .... Yes I'm being sarcastic.

Aries (3/21-4/20) You will have an amazing, wonderful, stress free exam week. No, but seriously? Do you never read these horoscopes? This is where I tell you I'm a filthy liar.

Taurus (4/21-5/21) Your hair is cute. That's all.

Gemini (5/22-6/21) Recently someone from your past has re-entered your life. I would tell you to be careful, but I like to watch other people's drama.

Cancer (6/22-7/23) Call me crazy, but isn't that guy stalking you?

Leo (7/24-8/23) Last week I didn't finish your horoscope, I'm sorry. There I apologized... happy?

** I apologize for cutting off Virgo and LIbra's horoscopes, so we will be printing two horoscopes this issue for both of you. But I'm not going to guarantee that you will be **

Virgo (8/24 –9/23) Have you gotten mail with money in it lately? Oh... too bad.

I would avoid dairy for the next two weeks.

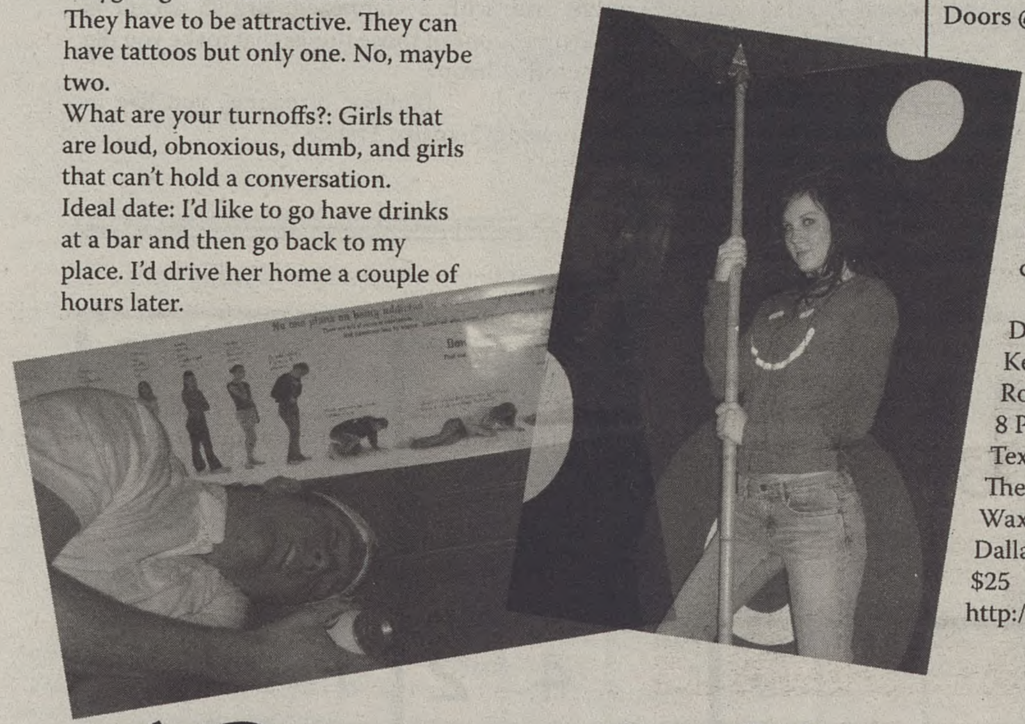
Libra (9/24-10/22) Little tip, coffee will not help you sleep... which is what you need to do well on your exams.

If you want to convince yourself that everything is hunky-dory I won't crush your good mood, at least not till next week.

Centenary Singles

Name: Daniel Gehrig
Year: Junior
Major: Biochemistry
Zodiac Sign: Sagittarius
Worst Date Story: One time, I was talking to a girl and I just had a sip of beer, and then I coughed it on her. It was pretty embarrassing. It was all over her face.
What are your turn-ons?: I like strong, independent women. They have to be athletic, smart, and easygoing. And like to drink a lot. They have to be attractive. They can have tattoos but only one. No, maybe two.
What are your turnoffs?: Girls that are loud, obnoxious, dumb, and girls that can't hold a conversation.
Ideal date: I'd like to go have drinks at a bar and then go back to my place. I'd drive her home a couple of hours later.

Name: Lizzie Drexler
Year: Senior
Major: Psychology
Zodiac Sign: Leo
Worst Date Story: Every time I go on a date, I spill my drink on the table. It's really awkward. It's happened, like, three times.
What are your turn-ons?: I like musicians, tattoos, and guys who are funny.
What are your turnoffs?: I can't stand smoking, littering, and guys who look in the mirror every time they pass a reflective surface.
Ideal date: I'd want to go to Sea World. I love walruses.

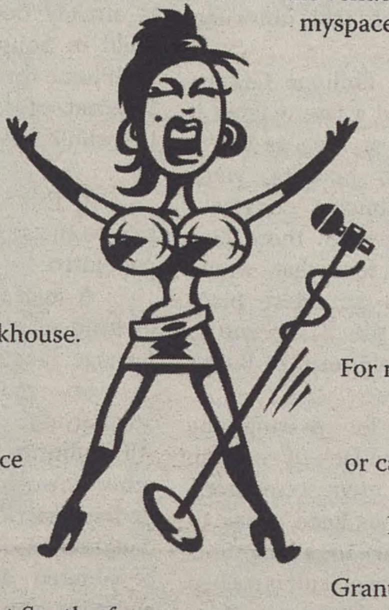


CENTENARY CONCERT WIRE

Dec. 7, Friday
Yesterday, Harbor The Thief, The Flood Memoirs, and Upstairs Divine
8 PM on \
Harlequin Alley at 516 Texas
This is an all ages show. For more information, please visit the venue's website at www.myspace.com/stephfruge.

Dec. 8, Saturday
Benjy Davis Project
Doors @ 10 PM
Rabb's Steakhouse
Ruston, LA
$10
http://www.bdpmusic.com/
http://rabbssteakhouse.com/

Dec. 8, Saturday
Kelly Willis & Bruce Robison
8 PM
Texas Music Theater
Waxahachie, TX (just South of Dallas)
$25
http://www.kellywillis.com
http://www.brucerobison.com
http://www.texasmusictheater.com



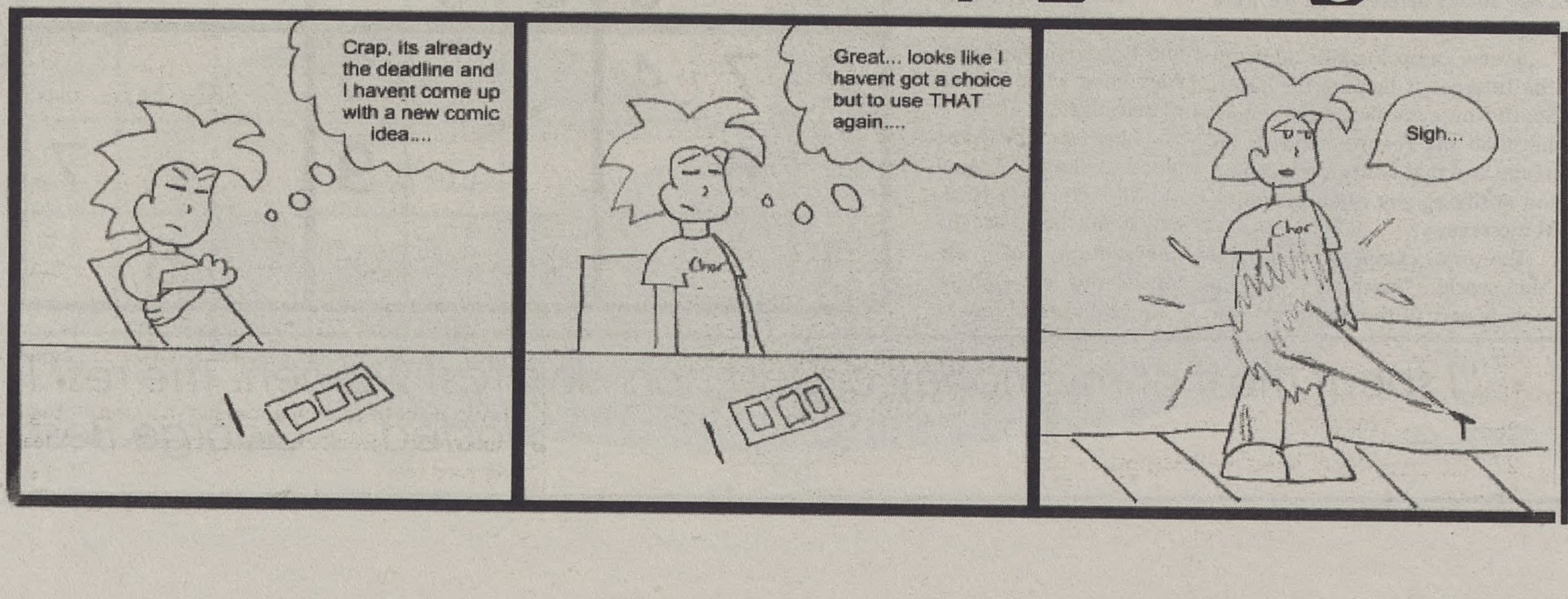
Dec. 8, Saturday
Dash Rip Rock and Culfactor will
10:00 PM
Warehouse on 630 Commerce Street
For more information, please visit the venue's website at www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

Dec. 8, Saturday
Bossier Arts Council and Red River Radio will present Big Wide Grin
7 PM
Fairfield Studios.
For more information, please visit bigwidegrin.com
or call (318) 220-0400

Dec. 13, Thursday
Reckless Kelly
Grant Street Dancehall
Lafayette, LA
http://www.recklesskelly.com
http://www.grantstreetdancehall.com

A Day with Christ

by Chris Christ


Crap, its already the deadline and I havent come up with a new comic idea....
Great... looks like I havent got a choice but to use THAT again....
Chor
Sigh...
Chor

Strange but true news: Internet-addicted kids and international incest

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

Are you busy with end-of-the-semester papers, projects, and exams?

Hey, same here! Thus, let's waste no time on silly intros, but get straight to the point.

1) To be or not to be?

The residents of Cugnaux, France are getting a completely new perspective on that notorious dilemma.

Their mayor, Philippe Guérin, has recently passed a law making it illegal to die. Yes, as long as you're within the town's borders, you'd better not kick the bucket… or else!

For once, however, there IS a good explanation for what would otherwise be the stupidest piece of legislation of the 21st century (excluding the whole term of Bush's presidency, of course).

The reason for passing the law is to protest the lack of room in the overcrowded town cementary. Although Guérin has been trying to build a new cemetary for a long time, the only usable piece of land is owned by the military, who obstinately refuse to give it up to a bunch of dead folks.

Apparently, the French military have not watched any of the "Day/Dawn/Night of the Dead" movies and don't know who they're messing with.

…Yeah, I know that was corny. So sue my roommate.

2) It has happened. We all knew it was just a matter of time before this day finally arrived, and we were right.

A new camp for kids addicted to the Internet is helping the youth of South Korea see that there's more to life than the Featured Videos on YouTube and that annoying bleeping sound notifying you of an incoming AIM message.

The first camp of this type in the world, "Jump Up Rescue School" is part of the South Korean government's efforts to help children at risk; according to official data, this might mean helping some 2.4 million Korean children, or 30% of people under the age of 18 in the country.

While at the camp, the kids attend therapeutic sessions and workshops, as well as participate in physical activities. In addition, they have no access to any global networks and are only allowed to use a cell phone for one hour a day.

So, basically, the campaign is already doomed. By now, every child in South Korea probably has an iPhone that comes with a wireless Internet card, a video camera, and the whole freaking Wii console.

3) This next story makes me too sick to the stomach to prep it with a cool intro.

A man in India recently stood in front of a judge for marrying his teenage daughter.

Six months ago, 36-year-old Afazuddin Ali admitted to the other townspeople that he had married his own daughter, and he is now bewildered as to why everyone is making such a big fuss over it.

After leaving the courtroom, Ali is quoted as saying that he has committed no crime and that he was only following God's will.

It might be worth mentioning here that his daughter is now pregnant.

The girl is said to have never gone to school and to have looked very frightened when talking to investigators.

Perhaps the most blood-chilling detail of this story is that, had it not been for the intervention of the locals, this case might have never been brought to light. As it turns out, none of the girl's family members reported the marriage or the pregnancy.

4) To end on a less morbid note, British people can't take a joke.

Emma Clarke was fired from her job as the voice of the London Underground after she told the press that she avoided the Tube.

Clarke, whose voice is heard by millions of London commuters every year, said that she was afraid she would go crazy if she had to take the subway every day. According to her, there's just something really creepy about hearing yourself ramble over and over about stations, waiting times and that dangerous gap between the ground and the train's door.

Moreover, Clarke has poked fun at the London Underground and at many other things on her personal website (www.emmaclarke.com), where e-visitors can use her voice samples to create their own announcements, funny messages, and random word scrambles.

The Tube's authorities explained that they can't have someone represent their company and at the same time criticize it, or make light of their job.

All I'm going to say is that hearing word scrambles like "a friendly transvestite unintentionally stands in my goat trousers" spoken with a composed, British accent is one of those things that make you die happy.

(Unless, of course, you live in Cugnaux, France.)

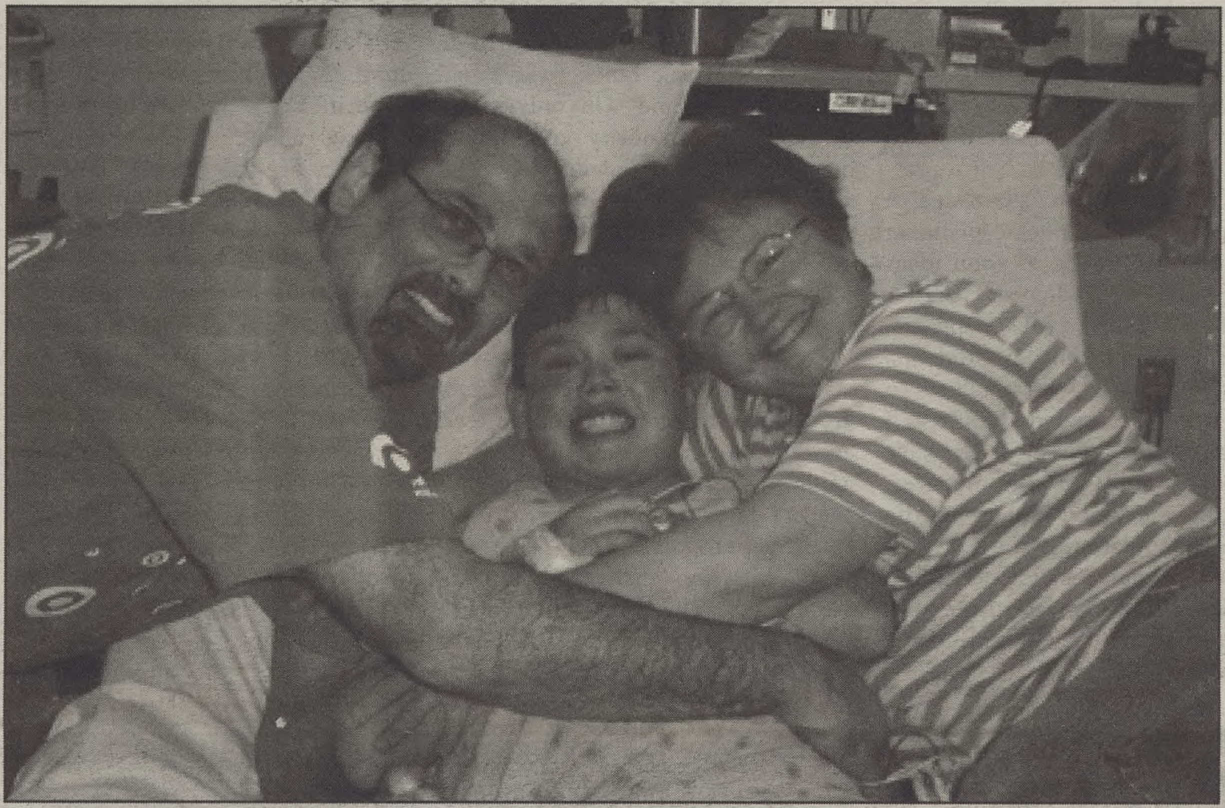
Sudoku

	9							5
8			5				3	
			3			6	2	9
				4	2	1		
		2	9		7	4		
		6	8	3				
2	7	4			3			
	6				9			7
3							6	

"I spent most of my money on fast cars and fast women. The rest I wasted." - George Best

The CONGLOMERATE

December 14, 2007 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 13



Matthew Cambell on the road to recovery:

The prayers of a family are finally answered

INSIDE

For "Books, CDs, and Movies: The year in review" turn to pages 9-11

Mascot Madness continues: responses from administration & students on pgs 2-4

The semester's final Centenary Secrets can be found on page 19

Michelle Junot
Staff Writer

Fourteen-year-old Matthew Campbell, son of Centenary Conferences and Facilities Coordinator Francine Campbell, is on his way to recovery with a new heart and kidney.

Matt was born without a right ventricle, a condition known as Hypoplastic Right Heart Syndrome, as reported by KTBS, Shreveport's ABC affiliate. Because of his condition, Matt was placed on the heart transplant list at the Dallas Children's Medical Center.

To remain on the heart transplant list at the Children's Medical Center, patients are required to be within two hours of the hospital. For this reason, the Campbells relocated to Longview, Texas.

The Centenary Community held a Matthew Campbell Jean Day as well as a Matthew Campbell Benefit Concert this semester to raise money for the Campbells' commuting expenses, as well as Matthew's medical bills.

On November 17, the community's prayers were answered, according to The Times. Matthew received a new heart, but unfortunately, there were several complications.

Matthew was soon put back on the heart transplant list to await another heart. His chest remained open, however, and he was kept sedated.

On November 28, Matthew was also put on a kidney transplant list. The hope was that both the new kidney and the new heart would come from the same donor.

The Campbell Family was notified around midnight, Saturday, December 1, that a kidney and heart had been donated. Matt was taken in to surgery around 3:00 p.m. Sunday, December 2, and both transplants were complete by 1:15 a.m. Monday morning.

Since the transplants, Matthew's fluid levels and heart and kidney function have steadily improved. His chest was closed Tuesday, December 11, and he will be gradually taken off of the medications keeping him sedated.

His family, along with the Centenary community, is thankful to all those who have supported and prayed for Matthew and his family during this trying time.

For daily updates on Matthew, go to www.caringbridge.org/visit/matthewcampbell.

If you would like to donate money to the Campbell family to help with their expenses, stop by any Capital One Bank branch and deposit money in the Matthew Campbell fund (Account #5731758001).

Opinion: A response concerning diversity

Deborah Badie, Senior

This is a response to an email I received from a faculty member Saturday morning. The email was about my letter in the Conglomerate. I will not print the entire letter; however, I would like to address some of the points made in it. I was informed that the climate assessment had nothing to do with the College's accreditation, but was a sincere effort on the part of higher-ups to find out what students think about diversity on campus. I would like to apologize if my remarks offended these officials because that was not my purpose; however, I will respectfully hold on to my cynicism. A big point this faculty member made in the letter was to inform me, "I know that you may not see the changes that are happening, but I assure you that things are happening." They went on to describe some of the "changes" happening:

"Meeting weekly with... community members to try to start a summer program for minority high school students in the area to help prepare them for college." Preparing minority students for college is a noble goal, but will those students choose Centenary? Most won't and until we find out why, we can't in good conscience encourage them to consider our school.

"We have also submitted a work plan to the strategic planning committee with a lot of good ideas on it, such as a diversity corner in the sub with weekly updates, discussions and forums for students, faculty and staff." I have talked to some minority students and staff on campus and none of them have heard of these planning committees. How can you better things for the minority population if they are not included in your discussion? Also, a diversity corner is no substitute for a multicultural center and will not be accepted as one.

"We would also like to do more for MLK Day this year and also have some other coffee house-type speakers relating to diversity." Doing more for MLK day or having diverse speakers is like using gum to fix a leaky boat. These quick fixes won't help anything and will only serve to make the minority community on campus more jaded. They will see these attempts as a bone tossed while we are asked again to wait for diversity.

The next quote is big, but I highlighted the important words.

"We have a new diversity statement for hiring faculty and are seeking to keep our committees accountable for bringing in minority applicants for faculty positions. We are talking about ways to help retain minority students. We are also talking about partnerships with schools like Dillard and Southern. We have proposed formalizing a committee of students, staff, faculty and community members that will be in charge of coordinating diversity efforts on campus. We have also proposed hiring a director of diversity --either part time or full time."

All of it is just more talking, done in committees that campus minorities are not on and know nothing about. These committee meetings are the campus' best-kept secret! They need to be open to the student body, staff and faculty. The climate assessment was a start, but constant feedback is needed if Centenary is to change. As for the belief that change is happening; here we are, a minority population, telling you NOTHING HAS CHANGED! If you continue to dismiss what we are saying, we will just say it louder. If we are still dismissed, Centenary will continue to see the number of incoming minority freshmen fall. An 18% minority population has already fallen to 14% in a year. After 200 years of being told "wait" and "soon," the

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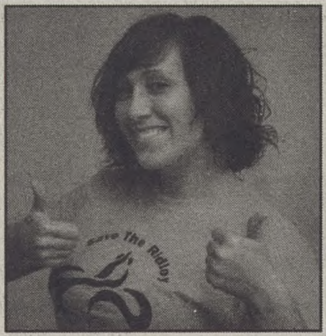
QUESTION OF THE WEEK

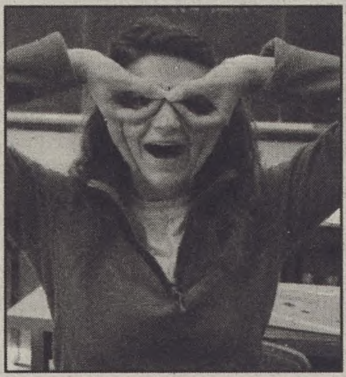
WHAT WOULD YOU GIVE KEVIN WAGNER FOR CHRISTMAS?



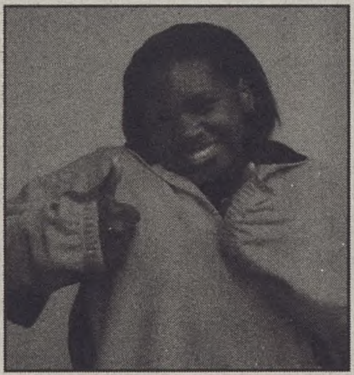
"Toys for his cat Unkas"
-Alysha Wallace,
Junior

"A raise, a weeks vacation, and a catahoula"
- Carrie Weber
Senior

"12 drummers, 11 pipers, 10 lords, 9 ladies, 8 maids, 7 swans, 6 geese, 5 golden rings, 4 calling birds, 3 french hens, 2 turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.
-Michael Anne Wheeler,
Junior



"Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens"
-Rachel Magill Bright,
Sophomore



"The keys I still have from Cline last semester"
-Ryan Thacker,
Sophomore

"Carpet Cleaner, a rabbid squirrel, and rogaine"
-Santa Claus,
Naughty and Nice Committe

OPINIONS

President Schwab comments on the mascot selection

Dear Editor,

Let me start by thanking everyone who voted and voiced their opinions during our process to add a mascot. The process, like any, was not perfect. On the other hand, we learned a great deal during the journey.

1. We have GREAT passion for the 'Ladies and Gents' and they will stay, period!

2. There was a lot of heart and enthusiasm about the idea of adding a new mascot.

3. The Catahoula was a clear winner!

That said, we have work to do to implement the addition in a way that is thoughtful and complimentary to Centenary. As for the comment about the word Catahoula on the T-shirts – that is NOT the intention. Instead we are working on a graphic with the mascot that is accompanied by the words Ladies and Gents.

We were asked to help with the mascot – specifically by many of the folks on campus who were frustrated by failed attempts and the impact that in turn had on morale of many folks. A mascot is not a panacea; it is, however, a work of spirit that we hope has resulted in some smiles and fun for the many who participated.

The use of "C," to the best of my knowledge, was directed to the development of a new and exciting program for Centenary Athletic Boosters who are joining the "C" Club. The Bell Towers, which grace a lot of our signage and are prevalent in the bookstore on Centenary items, was put forth as a logo during the 175th Anniversary of the College. The use of Explore, Invent, Connect was an outcome of several years of work by the College's Branding Committee.

Today, for the first time we have an internal department for Marketing & Communications. I have asked them to help us market this wonderful college that we all love. We will in the future look at a logo, one that represents us well and is a resounding "win" in market research as a good fit with Centenary. There is no timetable set, but it is work we will undertake. For the year 2008, we are using in a big way our Centennial logo which you are seeing on banners throughout the campus and the theme, "Celebrating our History, Launching our Future."

Please understand that no one effort of any one department can ever manage to solve all the challenges that we face. Yes, we need to work on enrollment and retention, and we are addressing these issues and more. And we encourage you to join us, working collaboratively with students, faculty, staff and alumni on many of these issues within Committees under the constructs of Centenary's strategic plan.

Again our thanks to you all,
Kenneth L. Schwab

Opinion: An open letter to the Centenary Conglomerate and the Centenary College community

Dear Friends,

We have a new mascot for Centenary College. We are the Gentlemen no more. The administration will tell you that the Gents moniker is staying, but it will no longer be visible at school functions or official gatherings. Perhaps we can still whisper it in polite company.

As a current Centenary student explained last week, the image of 'Gentlemen' is one of sexism and racism. Apparently, a cultured and educated male is a horrific thing. Is the image of 'Ladies' just as intolerable? Is it naive to believe that a Gent or Lady can be black or Asian as well as white?

Could it be that this change was never about the best interests of Centenary College? Could it be that it was only a haphazard effort to assuage political correctness?

We alumni understand that things evolve. We were never opposed to a mascot change or updating. But we wanted something that respected the traditions and the history of the college. We wanted something that could bridge our past association with the college to the here and now. Instead, we got a goofy menu of names that lacked knowledge of what Centenary is and continues to be. Mudcats? Fire Ants? Squirrels? This entire affair has been handled with carelessness and indifference. The students may not care, but the college and its alumni deserve better.

So we are the Catahoulas. We will no longer be subjected to chuckles about our 'old guy in a suit' mascot. Now the response will simply be bewilderment. A what? A hula cat? A cat dog?

And then there was the election of the mascot. Many of us are under the cloudy perception that 50% equals a majority. But your college does not acknowledge such nonsense. Thirty-two percent (the percentage of votes for Catahoula) equals an overwhelming consensus. And the second-place 21% (the percentage of write-in votes to retain Gents) in an insignificant dissidence. A run-off election would undoubtedly reconfirm the Gent mascot, and this can't be allowed. Political correctness must be served.

Ah, it is a new dawn at Centenary College. The Gents are no more. Racism and sexism have been subdued, unless, of course, you happen to be male or female or educated or ....

Sincerely,
Chad Carnahan

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Wake up Centenary, the powers lied!

A straightforward request

Parker Jarnigan, Senior

Last week, I talked about the Powers misleading the students. Now, I think it is more appropriate to use the term lie. That being said, I am not trying to rebel against the new mascot. Actually, I love the Catahoula and, after receiving doggy kisses at the game, wish I could take him home. Nevertheless, the actions of the Powers constitute some of the most brazen deception I have seen during my four years at Centenary.

First, I would like to quote from the still-live (at this writing) Mascot FAQ (http://www.centenary.edu/mascot/faq):

We respect the student's request for the addition of a mascot for the school and want to create an identity that embodies our history, tradition and uniqueness…[Question] Will the nickname "Ladies" and "Gents" change with the addition of the mascot? [Answer] No. We are adding a mascot to the school to complement the nicknames "Ladies" and "Gents" [emphases my own].

These statements were posted to the website to do away with the controversy created by confusion between the terms 'mascot' and 'nickname.' According to these official statements from the Powers, it is clear that the Mascot Campaign was conducted with the solitary goal of adding a mascot to the already existing nicknames of Ladies and Gents.

However, the actions of the Powers and others have suggested another goal. Last week I stated my belief that the Mascot Campaign was in reality designed to continue the process of phasing out the Gent, a process already begun by removing the symbolic representation of the Gent from paraphernalia and replacing it with C's and bell towers. Recently, a member of the infamous "Save the Gents" Facebook group asked the question 'I wonder how many years it will be before the Gent doesn't exist at all." Well, the answer to this question turned out to be a matter of hours.

The December 7, 2007 issue of The Conglomerate led with the front-page headline "And the Winner is…THE CENTENARY CATAHOULAS!" Either Conglomerate is unwittingly contributing to the dissemination of misinformation already rife throughout the Centenary community or it is simply reporting the information handed down to it by the Powers. Continuing on to page 3, interviewee Dr. Robert Prickett, co-chair of the Committee, said "In a very simple way, it was a success for the fact that our goal was accomplished – which was to find an additional mascot for Centenary [emphasis my own]." Conglomerate editor Versha Sharma reports that "Prickett also reemphasized the fact that the purpose of the vote was not to completely eliminate the Lady and the Gent…" [emphasis my own]. However, moving down just one paragraph finds that the maroon "The Centenary…" shirts can be returned to the bookstore and have "Catahoulas" emblazoned just below "The Centenary…" While it sounds trivial, the difference between printing shirts with cartoon Catahoulas and shirts that say "The Centenary… Catahoulas" is a major indicator as to whether our nickname is now the Catahoulas or the Gents. Thus, this difference determines whether the Powers lied or not. 'Catahoulas' has already been publicized once. As can be seen in two pictures accompanying the news release, the folder with the winner read "CATAHOULAS." Again, it's nitpicky, but that –s suffix sounds more like a nickname than a mascot.

While I had a sincere hope that I was wrong earlier, I believe that recent events strongly suggest that the real intent of this initiative was to give the Gent the boot. Combined, the statements of Dr. Prickett, the offerings of the bookstore, and the reporting of Conglomerate make it quite clear that we really are to be the Centenary Catahoulas. Therefore, it seems that the Powers have undoubtedly lied to the entire Centenary community. But if this is the case, I cannot imagine why they felt that lying was necessary.

The diversity climate assessment officially revealed that Centenary was hardly a beacon of cultural variety. Many students have expressed ill will toward the Gent and its undertones of racism and sexism. As part of the overall discussion concerning diversity, faculty members have expressed concern that our nickname too closely resembles a Southern white plantation owner. When the SGA tried to buy a Gent mascot suit last year, the Powers shot it down, saying that a new mascot was in the works that would better represent all of Centenary. With such a ubiquitous level of unfriendliness surrounding the idea of the Gent, why then did the Powers feel the need to lie?

The answer is simple: the unfriendliness of the Gent must not be very widespread. For the Powers to lie there would need to be a major concern that removing the Gent as the nickname of the College would create a great deal of animosity. It makes most sense that this animosity would come from the alumni, as they feel the greatest connection to the Gent. With more than half of current students voting – 512 out of roughly 900 – and only a small portion of alumni voting – 739 out of decades of alums yet to 'fully mature' – it does look like the alumni were underrepresented. While only the Powers know for sure whether this was intentional, if there was a fear that alumni would balk at removing the Gent, not inviting a large number of them to vote would have made perfect sense.

Realizing that I have done much to continue the debate, all of the above-mentioned circumstances leave me with a desire to know the truth and get on with my life, and I am sure many others feel the same way. For this reason, I request that someone who officially represents the responsible parties make a statement that definitively establishes whether we are to be the Centenary Gents or the Centenary Catahoulas. Such a statement could come from anyone – as high up as President Schwab or someone from Marketing & Communications – so long as they have the capacity to speak on behalf of the College. Furthermore, I request that all of the above issues be either explained or resolved in a manner that dispels confusion. Finally, if I have not offended or annoyed the people that make such decisions, I would love to be selected as one of the students to handle Gent (because that's a better name than Skiter, pronounced SKEE-tur) and bring him to games. I only have 10 hours next semester, and he obviously loves me.

KSCL

Visit the new KSCL podcast in iTunes by searching for "kscl" in the iTunes Store or visit www.kscl.fm

FEATURES

Peaceful end to Senator Clinton hostage standoff

Riley Adams
Staff Writer

On Friday, November 30, Lee Eisenberg held six people hostage at a campaign office for Senator Hillary Clinton in Rochester, New Hampshire.

Eisenberg led hostages and police officers to believe he had a bomb strapped to his chest, but it turned out to be road flares attached by duct tape.

The act was an attempt at suicide, Eisenberg claims. The entire time he hoped that he would be taken out by a sharpshooter or some police officer before being taken into custody.

In a post-event interview with the Daily News, Eisenberg explained, "I knew, once the last hostage went out the door, there would be no reason for [the police] to have restraint.

"I could see the sharpshooter. He was all dressed in camouflage, and he had one of those laser lights on his rifle... I didn't have my hands up or nothing. I just walked toward the door, thinking, 'This is it, he'll take me out.'

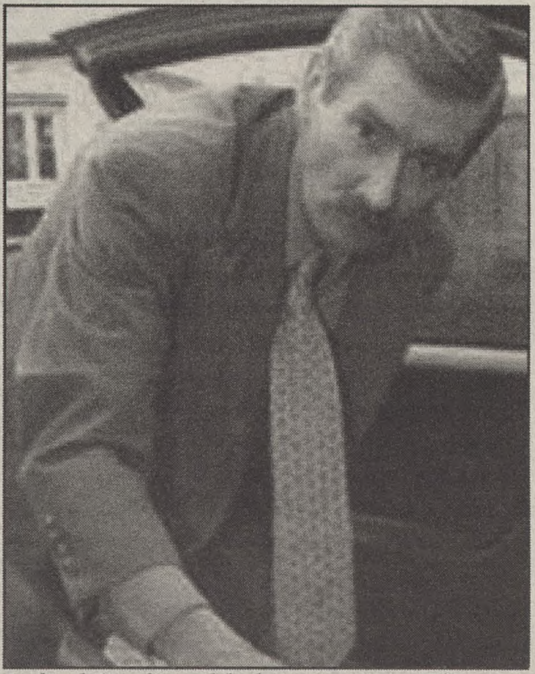
"So, I swing the door open, and he still didn't shoot me, and I'm like, 'What do I gotta do here?'"

During the interview with the Daily News, Eisenberg said he had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and that it was his mental health condition that predisposed him to commit the act.

It was also the combination of the loss of his sales manager job and his wife's divorce filing that led him to feel "apathetic and despondent."

Senator Clinton cancelled her scheduled speeches for the rest of the day and gave a tactful response.

"It appears he is someone who was in need of help and sought attention in absolutely the wrong way. It was for me and my campaign an especially tense and difficult day."



Leeland Eisenberg of the hostage siege at Hillary Clinton's campaign office. Photo courtesy of Foster's Daily Democrat

Features editor Aleks Kasztalska departs for a semester abroad

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

The end of the semester always catches me by surprise.

There's a point every December and April when I look at my planner and realize that I have only two weeks of school left.

Only two weeks before I have to pack my bags and get on a plane… or, more likely, hop on a bus which, if everything goes well, will take me home (Arizona) within the promised 24 hours.

But I always have to be mentally prepared for at least 30 to 40 hours, in case I don't get a seat on my designated ride.

(Random fact: even though the money you buy your bus ticket with is no less real than the money you pay for your groceries, Greyhound does NOT guarantee that you'll actually HAVE a seat.)

But I digress. This isn't about my love-hate relationship with the Greyhound Corporation, but about saying goodbye… at least, for now.

As you might or might not know, I will be spending the next semester in Lille, France, through an exchange program that Centenary has with l'Université Catholique de Lille. La Catho, as the cool kids call it, is where most of our French exchange students come from.

How does that affect YOU?

Well, for one, if you're my roommate, you will no longer have to suffer through a gazillion of my different alarm clocks every morning.

And if you're my reader, you will need to find another source of strange news to keep you [entertained? shocked? traumatized?] throughout the semester. You might also have to make a greater effort to get to know the new foreign students arriving in the Spring – unless someone will continue the interview tradition.

It amazes me that I have been a Conglomerate staff writer for a whole year and an editor for half of that.

It has been a very rewarding experience for me. There were, of course, moments when I had to battle against time to get my work done before the midnight deadline, or when my article-hungry mailbox was as empty as my bank account.

There was also the time when Versha kidnapped my family and stole my Snape banner, but it's all in the past now.

I will miss this past when I'm in France. I will miss attending our weekly Conglomerate meetings, coming up with the question of the week, and hearing Rhagen's politically incorrect or just plain atrocious (but hilarious) suggestions.

I will miss the compliments and the constructive criticism I received for my work.

Don't get me wrong – writing is fun and stimulating and everything, and yes we get paid for it; but it's nice to know that someone cares enough to actually read what you have to say.

I will definitely miss the Conglomerate and Centenary next semester.

I wish I could say with a clear conscience that I will write for the newspaper every now and then, but I know how absorbing study abroad can be.

Not that I plan to spend all of my days and nights crouched over books.

Among some of the things I hope to do next semester are to celebrate Mardi Gras the old-continent way and visit my family in Poland, as well as to consume copious amounts of freshly-baked bread, photograph hobos, and take a shot at extreme ironing ("the latest danger sport that combines the thrills of an extreme outdoor activity with the satisfaction of a well pressed shirt," according to its official website).

I'm sure I will have a lot of fresh ideas and new energy when I come back next August to hopefully join the staff of the Conglomerate for my final year of college.

In the meantime, I hope that you all have a wonderful semester, that the Fighting Squirrels bring an amazing guest to our campus, that the food at the Caf keeps getting better, and that the lady-statue near the Gazebo gets a new arm.

I also hope that you all welcome the incoming international students with open arms, whether they are introduced to you through the Conglomerate or not.

Wish me luck during my study abroad, and remember to support your student-run newspaper and to enjoy your semester!

Meet Karolina Zaloga, a Polish basketball player from Olsztyn

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

Conglomerate: Hi, Karolina! Could you introduce yourself to everyone?

Karolina: My name is Karolina and I'm from Poland. I play basketball at Centenary and my major is accounting.

Congo: Are you here for a few semesters or for four years?

Karolina: I'm here for two years, playing basketball, and maybe for a third year. I'm a junior.

Congo: Why did you decide to transfer to Centenary?

Karolina: The main reason was basketball, because the coach from here recruited me. And this is a very good school for academics.

Congo: What is your favorite thing about Centenary?

Karolina: I like that it's a small school and everybody knows each other. It has a very nice atmosphere.

Congo: Did you go to a big school before?

Karolina: No, I went to a junior college that was even smaller than Centenary. But I couldn't imagine being at a big school. I like small schools.

Congo: What has been your greatest challenge at Centenary?

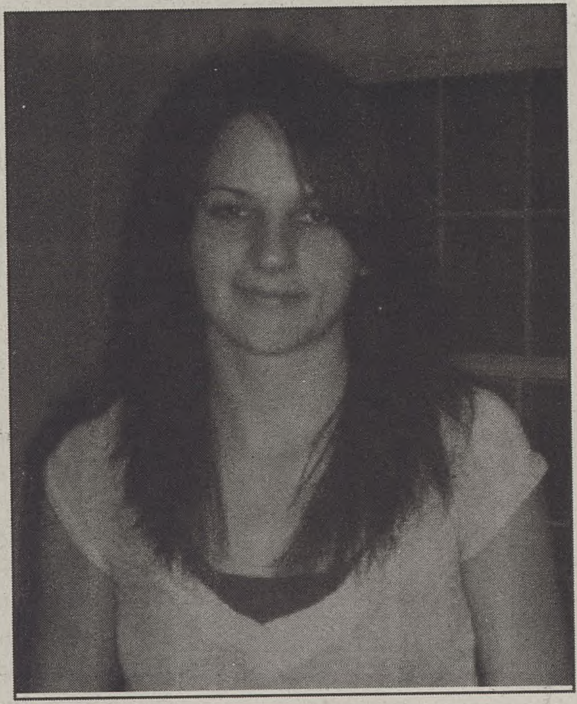
Karolina: I think changing schools. The level of studying is very different, too.

It was hard for me to adjust to this level of studies. It's higher that at my first school, so I had to work a lot. I didn't know it at the beginning, I just realized it later…

Congo: Did you go to high school in the United States?

Karolina: No, I went to high school in Poland and to junior college here.

Congo: What surprised you the most about the United States and/or Centenary? Karolina: When I came to the United States, it was so much different than my country! Everything was much bigger, with different mentalities, different cultures, so many different people. It was so much different…



Congo: Tell us something about the city you're from.

Karolina: I'm from Olsztyn, and what I love about my city is that there are a lot of lakes around, so I love to spend summer there. It's just great!

Congo: What are your interests and hobbies?

Karolina: My hobbies are especially basketball. I love playing basketball – I've played all my life.

I also love to spend time with my friends, listen to music, spend time with my friends, read books, watch movies.

Congo: What kind of career do you hope to pursue after college?

Karolina: I'm thinking about either staying here and getting a degree in accounting to work in some big company here.

If not, maybe I can go back to Europe to keep playing basketball. I just haven't decided yet…

Congo: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Karolina: I have one older sister. She's in Poland, studying there. She got married last June and she will have a baby, so I'll have a nephew!

Congo: Is your whole family in Poland, then?

Karolina: My whole family is in Poland, except my parents, who are in England right now, working there.

Congo: What is one talent or skill that you really wish you had?

Karolina: I wish I could sing! And I wish I could draw.

Congo: If you were a superhero(ine), who would be your sidekick?

(I had to explain to her what "sidekick" meant)

Karolina: I'm not sure… My hero was always John Paul II, but I don't know if I understand the question, so I don't know…

Congo: Do you have a favorite movie or book?

Karolina: My favorite book is "Pielgrzym" ["Pilgrim"], written by John Paul II.

I like funny movies and my favorite movies are, of course, about basketball, because I love basketball. But I also love "Wedding Crashes" and similar comedies.

Congo: Well, that concludes our interview. Would you like to add anything?

Karolina: I hope everybody enjoys Centenary! I think it's a great place to meet people and be really social.

Send us your secrets!

In honor of the newly released Post Secret book A Lifetime of Secrets the Conglomerate will be printing secrets of Centenary students.

In order to particpate take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box number 786 or slip it under the Conlgomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.

Some tips....

Be brief - the fewer the words the better
Be legible - use big, clear, and bold lettering
Be creative - let the postcard be your canvas

Visit www.postsecret.com for inspiration

Tech Column: Ubuntu, the alternative operating system

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

It's been just under two months since the release of Ubuntu 7.10, the newest version of the most popular desktop edition of Linux, and it's taking the computer world by storm.

For those who don't know, Linux is a free open-source operating system like Microsoft Windows or Mac OS X, but there are over three hundred different distributions and it gets a little tricky figuring all of that out for the average user.

Accordingly, we'll stick to Ubuntu.

Traditionally, there have been more than a few problems with Ubuntu. It lacked media support for many types of video and audio files, it could be difficult to install, had no Windows application support (a problem which haunts Linux and Mac alike), and wasn't generally user-friendly.

While a quick check of online reviews shows that there are always major improvements between versions, there has generally been something lacking to keep the average user away.

The latest version has been able to correct many complaints about Ubuntu.

It has nearly flawless support for just about every major media type, an extremely simple installer, and a host of new features that bring it up to a level most computer users wouldn't expect from a completely free operating system.

Unfortunately, gaming is still not an option, as only a handful of Windows games and software are ported to Linux, and users have regretted giving up iTunes and Microsoft Office for open-source alternatives, like Amarok and OpenOffice.org.

Yet, it also shouldn't be forgotten that there are still many reasons to switch to Ubuntu, including increased speed and reliability, and the fact that Linux is basically immune to viruses, spyware, and malware – the major enemies of Windows computers.

The installation process is quick and painless, and dual-booting is possible – that is, a user can have Windows and Linux on the same hard drive, so getting rid of Windows and the associated files and programs isn't necessary.

If the cost of a Mac is keeping you from leaving Microsoft, look into Ubuntu. More information, CD downloads, and the Ubuntu 7.04 press release from the October 15 release can be found at http://www.ubuntu.com.

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Advice from Allison: On gift giving

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

Theopinionsandideasexpressed by this article do not in any way reflect those of Centenary College, the Conglomerate, or the writer herself. In fact, these ideas probably don't express any intelligently informed opinions anyway.

Dear Allison,

I don't know what to give my boyfriend for the holidays! He always gives me such nice and thoughtful gifts and I always end up giving him a gift card.

What are good holiday gifts for boys?

-Stumped Santa

Dear Stumpy,

Don't you just get so frustrated this time of year with gift-giving and trying to find the right thing to buy for your Someone-Special?

I figured out a couple of years ago that keeping the gifts simple leaves the best lasting impression. It could be a small gesture, like taking him out for dinner at his favorite restaurant and driving around to look at the holiday lights.

You could also make him a shadow box of his college life, complete with programs from his Wind Ensemble concerts or his soccer jersey.

I find that the best gift to give at this time of year, however, is a negative pregnancy test. That is truly the gift that keeps on giving.

Dear Allison,

I want to break up with my girlfriend, but I worry that this is such a bad time to do so with the holidays on the way. I wouldn't want to ruin her semester break.

Should I break up with her now or wait until after?

-Senior Scrooge

Dear Scrooge,

Oh, I've been there many times. Unfortunately, it was with the same relationship.

There's never really a GOOD time to break up with someone, seeing how our American culture scatters holidays around just enough that something is always going to be celebrated in the next few weeks.

One time I had to just ruin my now ex-boyfriend's Flag Day by breaking up with him a week before.

The best thing to do is to break up with her now. She'll get over it and will actually be able to mend her wounds by spending time with her family and friends during the holidays.

Also, it will save you a lot of money since you won't have to buy her a gift this year.

Do you have a problem and need Allison's help? Send your issues to Campus Box 202 or e-mail Allison at acormier@centenary.edu

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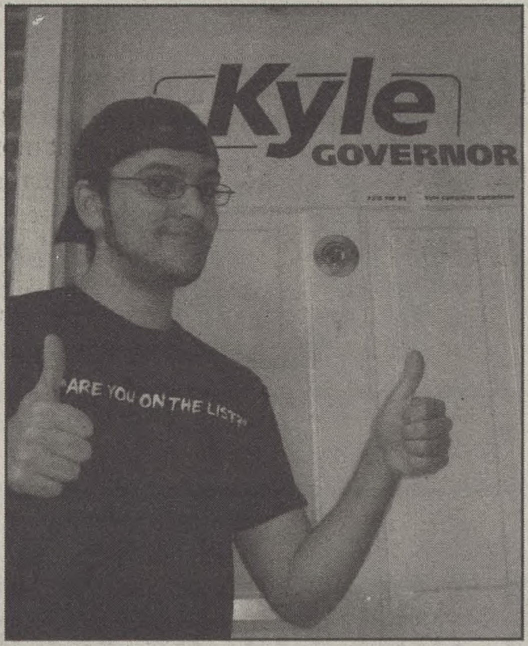
Centenary Singles

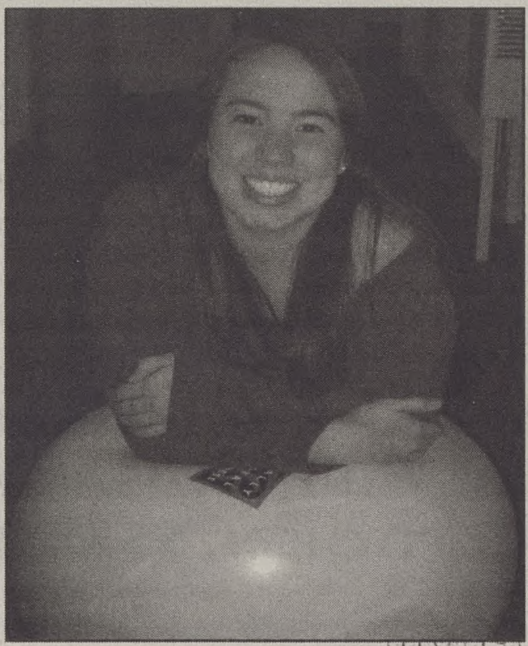

Kyle
GOVERNOR
"ARE YOU ON THE LIST?"

Name: Kyle McGimsey
Year: Junior
Major: Latin
Zodiac Sign: Pisces
Celebrity Crushes: Hayden Panettiere

What are your turn-ons?: Girls with good hair and into foreign languages. They have to be intelligent. Also, any girl with the last name "The Great."

What are your turnoffs?: Gum chewers, because the noise is awful. I don't like really annoying laughers and loud girls.

Ideal date: We'd get in the mood by translating Julius Caesar, have dinner at a Mediterranean restaurant, and then we'd put on our togas and party like it's 99 B.C.



Name: Nicole Turner
Year: Junior
Major: Biophysics
Zodiac Sign: Libra

Worst Date Story: I was taken to a really nice restaurant and my date kept telling me that I needed to save room for dessert. When the dessert finally came around, he asked how it was. I told him it was great and he said, "No, look at it!"

On the dessert, it said "Prom Frank?" and then I had to tell him that I already had a date for prom.

What are your turn-ons?: Guys with dark hair and dark eyes. Someone who can eat more than me and takes pride in what they do. He also has to be intelligent.

What are your turnoffs?: Public displays of affection, short guys, and facial hair.

Ideal date: He would cook dinner for me and we'd go somewhere to dance the night away.

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BEST OF LUCK TO YOU ALL ON YOUR FINALS!

A&E

A year in review: Dissapointments and surprises on the silver screen

Todd Johnson
A&E Editor

My Top Five Films of 2007
1. "American Gangster"
2. "No Country for Old Men"
3. "3:10 to Yuma"
4. "Eastern Promises"
5. "300"

Since 2007 is almost over, it is time that I compiled a "semi" best of movie list. However, this was sort of difficult since I have not seen some of the films ("Knocked Up", "Juno", "The Mist", and many others). However, I have seen many films that I think warrant at least one viewing, so here we go.

My number one this year was most definitely "American Gangster." This movie was perfect in every way for me. If I was to vote for best picture now, this would win the award hands down.

Number two was "No Country for Old Men". A return to form for the Coen Brothers and simply one of the best films of the year. The performances, the story, and the shocking brutality of the film come together to make an unforgettable masterpiece.

Next was the western "3:10 to Yuma." With Russell Crowe and Christian Bale working at the top of their games and the movie being an entertaining ride from start to finish, it is not at all surprising that I placed among the top this year.

"Eastern Promises" was a stunner from beginning to end. This movie only proves that David Cronenberg and Viggo Mortenson need to make more movies together… pronto. Plus, it has the most bad-ass fight I have seen in a long time.

Finally, there is the sheer awesomeness that is "300". While I already had insanely high expectations for this one, this movie still managed to surprise me with how great it was. Goes to show that even very high expectations can be surpassed on occasion.

My Top 5 Surprises for 2007
1. "Live Free or Die Hard"
2. "Stardust"
3. "Smokin' Aces"
4. "Superbad"
5. "The Kingdom"

Well, as this is the surprise list, let me start of with a movie that should not have been very good, yet it was: "Live Free or Die Hard". Since there hasn't been a Die Hard movie in 12 years and the fourth movies in franchises generally suck (not to mention the PG-13 rating), the fact that this movie was entertaining shocked the hell out of me by being very good. Now I am even happier that they released an unrated cut on DVD and I can have my fill of bloody violence and liberal use of the F bomb.

"Stardust" surprised me in the fact that it was truly a film for everyone. Literally, there is something for everyone in this movie. Like romance – check. Like action – check. Like comedy – many checks. By far one of the most entertaining movies of this year.

"Smokin' Aces" was another movie that I was dragged too and strangely enjoyed, despite the fact that it looked completely retarded (and is in some cases). However, I enjoyed it more than I should have.

"Superbad" looked like it was going to be dumber than "Napolean Dynamite", which is a movie that I despise. Yet, I found myself laughing hysterically the entire time. Granted, this one is not for everyone, but it is a scream for those who can handle the raunchiness.

"The Kingdom" finishes out the list because I expected a preachy, self-important thriller and what I got was action film that actually thrilled, and chilled in some places (like the ending). A very pleasant surprise for me.

The Most Disappointing of 2007:
1. "The Golden Compass"
2. "Ghost Rider"
3. "Beowulf"
4. "Shrek the Third"
5. "Resident Evil: Extinction"

While many found "Spider-Man 3" or "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" to be the most disappointing movies of the year, I was actually most disappointed by "The Golden Compass. It had no narrative cohesion and a horrible ending. This is a shame because there were some really good things about the movie.

"Ghost Rider" was a disappointment because I was a huge fan of the comics as a kid and the movie was boring, especially when you consider that Ghost Rider is one of the coolest characters in the Marvel Universe. Plus, the casting of Nicholas Cage didn't help either.

"Beowulf"was a movie that looked promising but couldn't live up to the hype for me. The animation and 3D was stunning, but everything else hit with a resounding "meh". I will admit however that the dragon fight at the end was simply amazing.

"Shrek The Third" was the biggest dud of the summer for me (I love the first two). It was not very funny and boring for the most part. Hopefully the problems with this one will be fixed when Shrek 4 comes out in a couple of years.

Lastly, you may be surprised by my pick, but "Resident Evil: Extinction" disappointed me because it was absolutely worse than I imagined it could be. At least the first two were fun fore the most part. This one was completely un-fun and unexciting in any way. Hopefully, they won't make any more in the series after this disaster.

U.S. Top 10 Grossing Movies of 2007

"Spiderman 3"
"Shrek the Third"
"Transformers"
"Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End"
"Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix"
"The Bourne Ultimatum"
7. "Ratatouille"
"The Simpsons Movie"
"Wild Hogs"
"Knocked Up"

(Source: imdb.com)

Movies of 2007: Perspective from another staff member

Tia Landrum
Staff Writer

My top five:

1. “300”
2. “August Rush”
3. “Knocked Up”
4. “Superbad”
5. “Transformers”

The shame in listing movies this way is it makes it seem like I consider these to be the best of 2007. Sadly, I think the best movies of 2007 must have been greatly overlooked, because each of the movies in this list might have been incredibly entertaining and impressive in its effects, but not one of them was both original and incredibly well-executed. “300” is at the top of my list for the acting and visual effects. The historical element is flawed, but overall the message is worth hearing and not tedious to find.

“August Rush,” is a similar example, as the originality that actually is present is entertaining but the technical music aspects are kind of trampled on for the sake of a more magical quality. When it comes to originality, “Knocked Up” and “Superbad” are on the list for this quality if nothing else. Most of the time for shock value, the humor in both of these movies is refreshingly not stale like most comedies have become (i.e. “Blades of Glory,” “Epic Movie,” “Fred Claus,” and “The Comebacks”).

“Transformers” was a pleasant surprise visually, although incredibly unoriginal in most respects. It was entertaining but left much to be desired, but the idea of bringing outdated characters to the big screen was not the disaster it could have been (i.e. TMNT).

Biggest Disappointments:

1. “Across the Universe”
2. “Good Luck Chuck”
3. “Nightmare Before Christmas 3D”
4. “Pirates of the Caribbean 3”
5. “Spiderman 3”

Not since “The Fountain” have I held so much hope for an artistic movie like “Across the Universe.” Likewise, never have I thought so seriously of leaving a movie early. As with “The Fountain,” I eagerly anticipated the film’s release, and just like with “The Fountain,” I had to painfully suffer through my poor judgment.

“Across the Universe” is only good in its ability to gain more interest from a new generation in both the Beatles and the 60s and 70s (as if that’s a problem today anyway). Otherwise, the artistic side is just cliché and the originality is just ridiculous (For example, the movie ends in a freeze-frame. I mean, COME ON.).

Movie trailers are dangerous things, and all of the movies in my list of disappointments possessed trailers that grossly misrepresented them. “Good Luck Chuck” is definitely no exception. Sure, it’s sort of funny. But the movie makes me lose respect for Dane Cook if anything.

As I am slightly in love with Mr. Cook, I’m not going to dwell on it and just continue to “Nightmare Before Christmas 3D.” I fell asleep. Literally. Sure, we’ve all seen it, but I LOVE this movie. However, at a midnight showing where I expected something wonderful with inventive use of 3D effects, when the movie played through about halfway and all that was different was a little more depth to the visuals than usual, I fell asleep in “Sally’s Song.” No regrets there. It was a good nap, and I hear I didn’t miss anything new.

Speaking of missing things, I went into “Pirates of the Caribbean 3” hoping for something even better than the first film (which I loved) and got something worse than the second one. I felt like I was completely lost for a good portion of the film, and when I figured out what was going on, I realized I didn’t much like it anyway. Without the special after-the-credits scene, I most likely would have been very bitter at the whole enterprise. As it stands, I guess I can tolerate the second two films, but the third one just makes me wish they’d stopped at number one.

And both lastly and least, is “Spiderman 3.” In my opinion, it’s not even fair to waste your time on an explanation of this movie. “Spiderman 2” was incredible and satisfying. I guess they just had to balance out the two good movies in the trilogy with one terrible movie. But hey, it did gross more money than all of the other films released this year. Guess the joke’s on us.

Movie Review: “The Golden Compass” is disappointing

Todd Johnson
A&E Editor

One of the hardest things to do as a filmgoer is to watch a film based on a book, series of books, television show, or comic book series that you particularly enjoy or enjoyed at one time in your life. It can be difficult to separate the movie version from its previous incarnations. With that said, I am a huge fan of the fantasy trilogy “His Dark Materials” by Philip Pullman. This is why I was a little uneasy about the film version of the first book in the trilogy, “The Golden Compass”.

For those unfamiliar with the story, the film is about a girl named Lyra (Dakota Blue Richards), who lives in a world where people have animal spirits that follow them around and act like their souls and where witches and armored polar bears are the deadliest creatures alive. However, Lyra becomes involved in a plot by an organization called The Magesterium; she is sent on an adventure that takes her to the arctic and eventually into other worlds (though that hasn’t happened yet in the films).

I was hoping that the film would leave me with that sense of wonder and awe that I felt when reading the books, much like the Harry Potter films and Lord of the Rings films did for their respective series. However, that was simply not the case here.

Taken on a scene-by-scene basis, the book comes to life on the screen. However, the problem with this is that, while each individual scene is absolutely brilliant, the movie as a whole doesn’t seem to mesh very well.

It is not narratively cohesively. It is simply a case something happens, and then this other thing happens, and then that happens. The film simply doesn’t flow very well.

Which brings the entire experience down many notches, which is bad because there are some great things in this movie that are near-perfect.

The casting is absolutely spot-on. Nicole Kidman as Mrs. Coulter was just an incredible bit of casting and she steals the screen everytime she appears. Daniel Craig as Lord Asriel, Sam Elliot as Lee Scoresby, and Eva Green as Serafina Pekkala all do great work as they are perfectly cast for their characters. Of course, there is Ian McKellan as the armored bear Iorek Byrnison. While it is a little jarring to hear Gandalf coming out of the bear, I quickly got over it because he is by far the coolest (no pun intended) character in the movie

However, the real star of this movie is Dakota Blue Richards as Lyra. She is Lyra from the novels, meaning that she gives a great performance.

The special effects in this movie are stunning, as well as the production design, and the action scenes, especially the polar bear fight. The polar bear fight alone is worth the price of admission, as it is that awesome.

However, there is a major problem with the ending of the movie. While I expected a cliffhanger, they picked the wrong place to stop. If they had stuck with the original ending to the book, then audiences would be clamoring to see the next installment of the trilogy (“The Subtle Knife”). However, the ending is kind of lame and not very exciting, which ultimately makes me sad.

So, in short, while there are some great things about “The Golden Compass”, I can’t really give the film my recommendation. It wasn’t a bad movie, just not a very good one. Just put this one down in the disappointment column.

The absolute worst movies of the year

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

I love reviewing bad movies. Of course, I like writing about movies that I actually enjoy watching, but there's just something magical about exposing the shortcomings of an overall horrible production.

To tell the truth, my initial thought on how I should construct this article was to submit only the following list, and leave it without comment:

Aleks's Top Ten Worst Movies of 2007

1. “Ghost Rider”
2. “Ghost Rider”
3. “Ghost Rider”
4. “Ghost Rider”
5. “Ghost Rider”
6. “Ghost Rider”
7. “Ghost Rider”
8. “Number 23”
9. “Ghost Rider”
10. “Ghost Rider”

I don't want to get started on “Ghost Rider” again, but if you haven't read my review from last semester, let me quote myself and say that the dialogue was at the intellectual level of a five-year-old and that all through the movie Nicolas Cage (vainly) tried to make up for this void with his stupid grinning and behaving like the mentioned five-year-old.

Moreover, it was painfully obvious why Eva Mendes was chosen to play Johnny's old and unquenched flame, Roxanne Simpson, as the ever-underbuttoned shirt was practically screaming ‘fan service,’ bringing to the viewer's mind the still-tender memory of the most tragic wardrobe malfunction in the history of (wo)mankind.

However, while I was compiling my Top Ten list, and copying and pasting those two burning words, I realized that, although “Ghost Rider” really did feel like a stab in the face (and in the wallet), it would be unfair to say that it was the only movie to that effect this year.

After all, “Number 23” came out in 2007, too. As bad as it was, one of the few reasons why “Number 23” did not top “Ghost Rider” on my crap-list is because it starred Jim Carrey instead of Nicolas Cage.

And no, I'm not a Nicolas Cage basher (nor am I his fan). But seriously, if there's a sequel to that movie, I'll hire a one-armed man to teach Cage and the whole “Ghost Rider” crew a lesson about making sequels to utter crap.

“And that's why you DON'T make sequels to ‘Ghost Rider’!” (Sorry to all the “Arrested Development”-challenged people who don't get the joke.)

So as not to turn this article into a “Ghost Rider” or “Number 23” hate-fest, let me point out that those two really were the worst of the worst this year, at least as far as I'm concerned.

But there were a few other movies that I just plain thought sucked or for which I'd had much higher expectations.

“Transformers” would probably fall in the first category, because I honestly didn't expect much from it. Which is the only reason why I didn't curl up in a fetal position and cry during the credits (that, and the fact that I didn't pay for the ticket).

Really, though -: what does this movie have to offer besides giant robots and special effects? Unless you're a worshipper of some Shia LeBoeuf cult or just love to watch giant robots beat the crap out of each other for two hours, the movie leaves little for you to enjoy.

I'll admit it had some exciting moments and, true, the special effects were pretty cool – but I just couldn't stand the clichés, the lack of a plot, and the really annoying female lead.

Fortunately, 2007 also offered titles that helped movie-goers regain faith in the shaky industry.

Just to name one such title, let me mention the amazing, stylish, and wonderfully ripped (as most evident when watching it with a bunch of your girl friends), “300.” And this is coming from someone who liked “Sin City” but was too disturbed by Frank Miller's style to think that she'd ever truly love any other adaptation of his graphic novels.

However, “300” turned out to be just an all-out great epic movie: beautifully shot, with amazing battle scenes, a rockin' soundtrack, and yes, hawt men who don't really believe in clothing.

Another amazing movie of the past year was “Children of Men.” Although it kind of lacked in the hawt department in comparison with the aforementioned title, it was a gripping, intense, well-made thriller with a superb cast.

Not to mention that one ridiculously long shot during the final battle scene, which looked like it was taken straight out of a documentary.

To name just a few other worthy productions, there were “Enchanted,” “Evan Almighty” and even “The Mist.”

Thus, all in all, this past year wasn't bad for movies. There were some devastating disappointments, but there were also some surprising winners, so I guess the cosmic equilibrium has been maintained.

And though this might have little more basis than my biased and often trippy taste in movies, I think it is safe to say that we can look toward 2008 with hope.

Still, I'll keep my pitchfork at a hand's reach, in case they do end up making “Ghost Rider 2.”

Classic holiday films never fail

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

As the holidays approach, these are a few favorites and classics that I recommend to get you in the Christmas spirit.

Santa Claus came tumbling down…the roof. Tim Allen put on the suit and became Santa Claus, falling victim to “The Santa Clause.” This movie put a unique twist on Santa and that is what makes it such a good movie. Though it is now a trilogy, the original is a classic. “You put on the suit, you're the big guy.”

“A Christmas Story” is about Ralphie Parker, whose only wish for Christmas is “an official Red Ryder, carbine action two-hundred shot range model air rifle, with a compass in the stock and ‘this thing’ which tells time.” The journey Ralphie goes through to get his BB gun is an entertaining one. The movie is packed with comedy. “Oh fudge!” “You'll shoot your eye out!” Oh, and “be sure to drink your Ovaltine.”

Whether you prefer the book, cartoon, or live action movie, we all fell in love with the green guy with the heart “two sizes too small.” We took a trip with him to Whoville and fell in love with him even more as he stole then replaced the Christmas presents and decorations. “How the Grinch Stole Christmas!” is a classic.

What happens when you have a forgetful father searching for the most popular Christmas gift on Christmas Eve? Add in Sinbad as the mailman who is searching for the same toy and you have a comedic masterpiece. This dynamic duo takes us store to store to radio station to warehouse and Christmas parade in search of the Turbo Man action figure in “Jingle All the Way.” “It's Turbo Time!”

An underage child left home by himself does not actually scream “holiday film,” but “Home Alone” is a friendly-family Christmas movie. It is about Kevin, who not only is the family outcast, but is also left home, accidentally of course, while the family goes to Paris. Enter two burglars, and while some may feel it is too many things in one plot, the story flows well. The sequel, “Home Alone 2: Lost in New York,” is great and on some levels even better than the original. “You guys give up, or are you thirsty for more?”

Some other non-detailed favorites are “Borrowed Hearts,” “Miracle on 34th Street,” “It's a Wonderful Life” and “A Diva's Christmas Carol.” Happy Holidays!

Movie Review: Introducing the great and talented August Rush

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

"August Rush" is a film about a very musically talented orphan who goes in search for his parents. Finding love for one night, then torn apart by obligation and pride, Lyla Novachek (Keri Russell), a famous concert cellist, and Louis Connelly (Jonathan Rhys Myers), an Irish lead singer of a rock band, start the beginning of an adventure neither of them will forget.

After a single night of passion, they are torn apart by Lyla's father, played by William Sadler, when he whisks her back to Chicago. Little does she know that one incidence would lead to a baby.

As Lyla risks her concert cello career to raise her child, her father has other plans in store. As she runs out, she is hit by a car, sending her to the hospital and giving her father an excuse to get rid of the child. She has no idea her son was born. Without knowledge of this incident, Louis constantly looks for Lyla everywhere he can. Without regard to his band mates' feelings, he leaves New York City for San Francisco to start his corporate career. Years pass, and, soon, he is a different person.

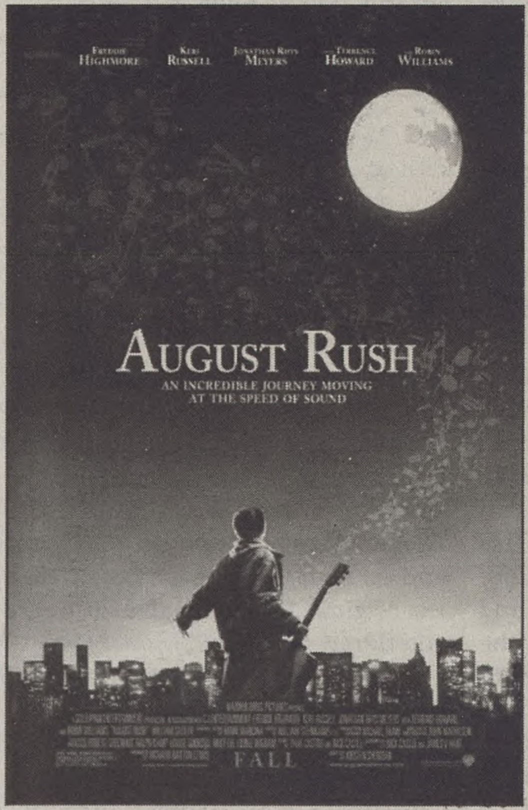
Eleven years pass and Evan Taylor, the child Lyla never forgot, but never knew she had, is in an orphanage. He can hear the music everywhere: in the fields of wheat, in the air, even in the voices of the other children that pick on him. They call him a freak because he believes his parents are still out there and still want him. One night, he decides to find them himself, leaving the orphanage for good.

As he moves out to the streets of New York, he meets several interesting characters, including Maxwell "Wizard" Wallace, played by Robin Williams. He teaches Evan to play guitar, or, more like, Evan watches and, literally, learns. He is a musical prodigy that can not only play guitar and piano, but can read music after only a few hours worth of studying.

He goes through many tribulations, but, in the end, is accepted to Julliard to study music composition. He is the youngest student in his class. As he learns the fundamentals of music, he writes his own symphony to call out to his parents. He believes that, if they hear it, they will find him.

"August Rush" is the masterpiece of all masterpieces. This film takes sounds not known by human ears to be even pleasant and turns them into musical genius. The sound editing on this movie was phenomenal. They mixed noise and made it into a soundtrack of the world, turning paper rolling around on the street and honking horns into percussion and brass in an orchestra at the Met.

After watching this film, anyone would be stupid not to roll down the window of their car and just listen to the world around them. If he can hear the music, why can't we? This film is great to see with family, friends, or even that group of kids in your Music Appreciation class that needs extra credit.



Movie Review: "This Christmas" is unoriginal and predictable

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

"This Christmas" is a movie about a family coming together for their annual Christmas gathering. The Whitfields are a family full of secrets and at this gathering they come to light.

"This Christmas" is a movie where the good outweigh the bad. It is full of familiar faces and in the two hours of the movie the audience is drawn into the movie and actually feels like a member of the Whitfield family.

Loretta Divine plays Ma'Dere, the glue that holds the family together. Her six children come to her house for Christmas. The beginning of the movie introduces the audience to the adult children. There is only one child living at home, Baby, played by Chris Brown. The audience sees the oldest, Quentin, played by Idris Elba, getting into a bar fight.

As the Whitfields gather in the house it is asked if Quentin is coming home. No one believes that he is since it has been several years since he joined the family for the holidays. With the family together the audience is exposed to the drama between unmarried Kelli, played by Sharon Leal, and her sister Lisa, played by Regina King, and her husband Malcolme, played by Laz Alonso. The arguments between Kelli and Malcolme sound like professional jealousy, and the arguments between Kelli and Lisa sound like sibling rivalry.

When Quentin comes to the house, he brings his dislike for Joe Black, played by Delroy Lindo. Joe is Ma'Dere's live-in boyfriend. Though Ma'Dere is the family's glue, Quentin is like the rock and his younger siblings look up to him. Baby, who loves Joe, is torn between that love and the loyalty he has to the family.

The music in "This Christmas" is good. Chris Brown does a rendition of Donny Hathaway's "This Christmas" and I was not disappointed. He also sings, "Try a Little Tenderness." The other songs fit the theme of the movie very well.

Though the movie overall is good, there are some unfavorable elements. "This Christmas" was too predictable. It is a family movie so some predictability is expected, but not as much as was found in "This Christmas."

Also, with such a notable cast, it would have been nice for the characters to portray different roles. Many of the characters were carbon copies of their roles in previous films, most notably Chris Brown and Columbus Short playing brothers as they did in "Stomp the Yard."

Sharon Leal is the best one that played someone who wasn't her character from a recent film. This hurt the movie because an audience likes variety, and these were not characters from films from five or ten years ago, the majority of the cast has starred in a popular movie within the past two years.

There was too much "Soul Food" in "This Christmas." Too much of the dialogue was like "Soul Food," from the sister who went to college versus the sister who stayed home to help the mother to the conversation about selling the house. It was just too similar. This hurt the movie because with such similar plot lines the movies are compared to one another, and "Soul Food" surpasses "This Christmas."

"This Christmas" also had too many unbelievable aspects. The cast was large and the characters were underdeveloped, leaving too many unanswered questions, especially in the story involving Claude, played by Columbus Short, and Sandi, played by Jessica Stroup.

The best scene in "This Christmas" is one that rivals the grits scene in "Tyler Perry's Madea's Family Reunion." Two words: baby oil. When baby oil is asked for, don't go get popcorn.

If you're looking for originality or a new spin on a typical genre, "This Christmas" is not for you. However, if you want to see a family movie starring some of your favorite actors from recent films, "This Christmas" is perfect. "This Christmas" is a decent movie that had many directions it could have gone in rather than the path chosen.

The cinematic death and re-birth of "I am Legend"

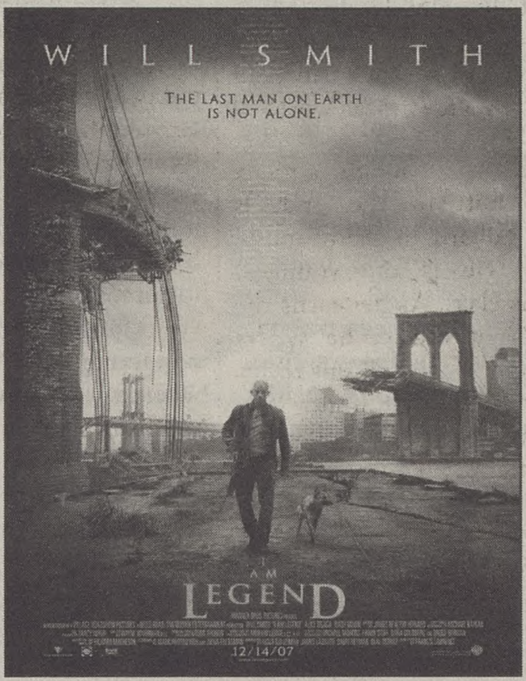
John Bonner
Staff Writer

Today sees the release of the film "I Am Legend," directed by Francis Lawrence ("Constantine") and starring Will Smith. It's based on a novella by Richard Matheson, and tells of a near-future where scientist Robert Neville (Smith) is the last survivor of a virus that has wiped out a significant amount of the human race, but has turned everyone else into a vampire. By day, Neville seeks out answers for the aforementioned virus, but by night, he shelters himself in his well-equipped home from the raging masses outside who are literally screaming for his blood. The Francis Lawrence film is a serious box office contender for Warner Bros., but this is not the first time "I Am Legend" has been made into a film.

Some back story is needed. Richard Matheson is a writer highly praised in the areas of science fiction and horror. Appropriately, he was inspired by author Ray Bradbury as a young man, and since Matheson himself began writing, Stephen King has cited Matheson as one of his top influences to become a writer. Matheson has written novels such as "A Stir of Echoes" and "What Dreams May Come," scripts for TV series like "Star Trek" and "The Twilight Zone" (he wrote the classic episode "Nightmare At 20,000 Feet," where William Shatner sees "something on the wing"), and has adapted some of his stories into feature films like "The Incredible Shrinking Man" and TV's "Duel" (Steven Spielberg's feature directorial debut), among many other screenwriting credits.

However, it was the 1954 publication of "I Am Legend" that would be considered Matheson's greatest storytelling accomplishment amongst his fans. A character study of isolation as well as terror, author Dean Koontz has proclaimed "I Am Legend" to be "the most clever and riveting vampire novel since 'Dracula.' Bleak, frightening, and unputdownable." Matheson's tale offered scientific explanations behind vampirism, and served as a major influence for filmmaker George Romero when he made "Night of the Living Dead," a movie that would itself go on to inspire a whole sub-genre of zombie stories ("I Am Legend" and "Night of the Living Dead" share the image of a man boarding up his doors and windows from undead threats trying to get inside). After the novella's release, Hollywood initiated an interesting dance, an on-again-off-again relationship, with the story.

Originally "I Am Legend" was to be adapted by Matheson for British horror studio Hammer Film Productions under the title "The Night Creatures," but curiously, the studio that had introduced worldwide audiences to "blood and breasts" with icons such as Dracula and Frankenstein deemed Matheson's script to be too violent. Instead, the property was turned over to an Italian production company and made into 1964's "The Last Man On Earth," starring Vincent Price. Matheson contributed to the screenplay, but after a series of re-writes, he asked for his name to be removed from the credits, creating the pseudonym "Logan Swanson." "The Last Man On Earth" featured vampires who acted more like zombies, and although Price's casting as the protagonist (here playing "Robert Morgan" instead of "Robert Neville") and departures from the source material are disputed, many still argue that this film is better at capturing the book's post-apocalyptic tone and atmosphere than 1971's "The Omega Man." Starring a machine gun-happy Charlton Heston as Neville, the film is truly a reflection of the time period in which it was made, as it features Neville watching the documentary Woodstock in an abandoned theater, black-robed, pale-skinned, and infected members of "The Family" who are reminiscent of the Manson Family, and an abundance of characters with afros.


WILL SMITH
THE LAST MAN ON EARTH IS NOT ALONE.
I AM LEGEND
12/14/07

In an interview published in "Cemetery Dance" magazine, Matheson commented on the two films: "I was disappointed in "The Last Man On Earth," even though they more or less followed my story… I just didn't care for it. "The Omega Man" was so removed from my book that it didn't even bother me!"

As time passed, Warner Bros., who had distributed "The Omega Man," still had the rights to "I Am Legend," and so efforts were made to remake the property once more. During the 1990s, Ridley Scott ("Alien," "Gladiator") had signed on to direct Arnold Schwarzenegger in a version of the story, but rising production costs prevented the movie from happening. As the project languished in various stages of "Development Hell," with screenplays floating around by John Logan and Mark Protosevich, in 2002 it finally looked like director Michael Bay ("The Rock," "Transformers") would re-team with Will Smith for "I Am Legend," but it was decided they would make "Bad Boys II" instead. During this time, rumors ran throughout the industry that various directors like Rob Bowman ("Reign of Fire") and James Cameron ("The Terminator") would direct the movie. There was even a brief period of time when the third "Blade" movie was planned to heavily follow the plot of "I Am Legend," but that idea was scrapped.

Finally, in 2004, impressed with his feature debut "Constantine," Warner Bros. officially announced that Francis Lawrence would direct "I Am Legend," shortly followed by confirmation that Will Smith would star. Since then and until now, the current production has received mixed reactions from various people aware of the movie: With plans to shoot in New York, many felt a sense of excitement with the location's potential to make the story feel even more epic, a departure from past Los Angeles-based adaptations. Strong buzz has also come from Will Smith's performance as Neville, having done research by interviewing POWs.

However, word has also leaked concerning re-shoots, a move fully endorsed by Francis Lawrence in interviews. During shooting, Lawrence decided to not film the vampiric "infected" antagonists using live actors, and has opted instead to make the creatures CGI-based. Moreover, there has been concern over the screenplay, a script by Protosevich that was long considered by insiders to be one of Hollywood's best un-produced screenplays during the movie's development; now it is feared that producers and co-writers have tampered with the story, especially the ending (the movie is based on both Matheson's book and "The Omega Man"). This is partly because of Akiva Goldsman's role as co-producer and co-writer; Goldsman won the Oscar for his screenplay of "A Beautiful Mind," but also wrote infamously-derided films such as "Batman & Robin" and "Lost In Space."

Will moviegoers finally be treated to a definitive version of "I Am Legend," a story that claims countless fans and whose influence can still be felt throughout multiple genres? It will surely be worth finding out, as the film is released today in both standard movie theaters and IMAX theaters (IMAX moviegoers will have extra incentive to see the film, as there will be a six-minute "Prologue" screened to preview "The Dark Knight," next summer's highly anticipated sequel to "Batman Begins"). But in any event, within another generation or two, chances are we may see another cinematic incarnation of "I Am Legend," as Richard Matheson's 1954 novella proves that its themes and ideas continue to be relevant—and immortal.

Interview: Anonymous informer who is NOT John Bonner assures students Wild Fist is all right

Aleks Kasztalska
Features Editor

Concerned with the recent absence of Centenary's favorite ruffian, I decided to investigate why we haven't heard from Wildfist for a few months now.

Since contacting Wildfist directly requires much more money than the Conglomerate's budget would allow, I had to settle on an anonymous informer.

Nohj Rennob, as he asks to be called, was able to travel from the 1800s to our time via a vortex, to not only give us an update on Wildfist… but also to answer a few personal questions about our local "hero."

Conglomerate: First of all, thank you for your time, Mr. Rennob. Second, our students have been very worried about Wildfist in light of his long-lasting absence. What's going on, if you don't mind me asking?

Rennob: Basically, it all started when Wildfist got into a slight argument with John Bonner – who I definitely am NOT.

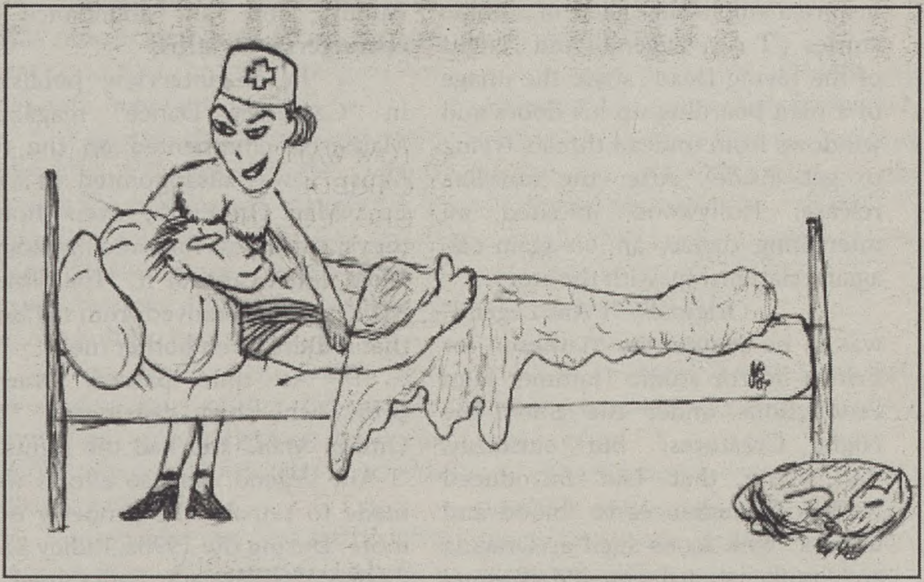
What happened was that, during a battle in the local library/brothel, Wildfist pulled his back trying to lift a bed and injured himself during a fight.

Here's the weird part, though: it landed him in the hospital, but he enjoyed having time off so much that he actually stayed in the hospital longer than he needed (because he does have healing-regenerative abilities).

So, he's been staying in this hospital for way too long due to two problems. One problem is that he's heard about the recent writers' strike going on in the future of Hollywood.

The other thing is that the fame he received from last year's comic strips has actually gone to his head – which, his ego being already huge, you can imagine what that's done to him.

So, his nightly activities have reached a fever pitch. So much that he's actually received about seven paternity suits, in addition to three or four lawsuits from the nurses working at the hospital. Which, you know, with his promiscuity, there's no telling how many of those things turn out to be real or not.



That's been keeping him and John Bonner – who I am NOT – in and out of court constantly.

Congo: Do you know when we can expect his return to the spotlight?

Rennob: We're almost – and by "we" I mean they, John Bonner and Wildfist – they're almost halfway through with the lawsuits.

Also, Wildfist has been training again, he's been doing some exercises. I won't say he's been eating healthy, but he's definitely been drinking less and smoking less.

So, I think that by January he should be back in the public eye again. I think he's ready. And by "I," I mean they.

Congo: What will be the first thing that Wildfist does once he gets out of the hospital?

Rennob: Hmm… I'm trying to recall what I heard him- I mean, what I heard being SPOKEN. Because I haven't talked to him, of course [He laughs nervously].

Actually, he did give me a statement. It says, and it's hard to read his handwriting, but he says the first thing he'll do when he gets out is "wash my dawg and polish my pistol, if you know what I mean, hahaha."

Gosh, what a jackass. I'm sorry.

Congo: It's OK. I think we're all used to Wildfist's potty-mouth by now. Do you know who is currently taking care of his dawg?

Rennob: Actually, some people tried to separate Wildfist Dawg from him but that's been met with a lot of injuries and, in some cases, rabies.

They won't let him into the hospital, but he actually sleeps right outside the window where Wildfist is, and they give him food and water.

Although they can't walk him, occasionally they have to let him out and he'll go and exercise and kill a buffalo or whatever.

So, to answer the question: the hospital staff and yet no one.

Congo: I have always been wondering why Wildfist decided to become… whatever it is you would call him?

Rennob: A lot of people have asked him that. He didn't feel too comfortable about saying that, just kept repeating something about "the way he was brought up"...

And he used the word "inenevitable," but he was pronouncing it incorrectly, I forgot how he said it exactly.

Congo: Would you know what are some of Wildfist's hobbies, interests, things he likes to do when his busy schedule allows him to relax?

Rennob: Well, the things that he likes to do… I really don't think they'd be appropriate to share with the readers.

I think perhaps the most wholesome way I can say this to you is that he enjoys spending time with others. Other than that, I've seen him-

Congo: You mean, you've HEARD people say things about him? Because you haven't actually ever seen him?

Rennob: Oh, no, no! I haven't seen him personally, of course not. [He chuckles]

But he doesn't read, doesn't like talking to people. He spends time with his dawg, drinks, smokes, and he's interested in anatomy. Female anatomy.

But I really don't know how to word it. I know there are many sensitive readers of the Conglomerate, so I don't want to offend anyone.

Congo: Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Another thing I would like to know is: if Wildfist could team up with any superhero – or supervillain – who would it be?

Wildfist: This is something that actually they haven't gone to deal with yet in the comic strip.

But I heard him talk to other people about other heroes and other figures, and he keeps mentioning this one person named Bullet. He won't say much, but he talks about looking up to him and wanting to meet him again someday.

That's really all he says, I've never heard him talk about a previous meeting or anything.

Congo: Will Wildfist ever reveal his real name to the world?

Rennob: Well, they made him sign certain forms and I honestly thought that he was going to sign with a different name, but he just made it Last Name: "Wildfist" and First Name: "Mister."

I heard rumors that he does have an actual name and that it has the letter "e"…as if there aren't enough names that have "e" in them. But it's almost as if he's forgotten about it, he doesn't talk about it. He's very secretive, that Wildfist.

Congo: Well, thank you very much for your time. I was going to wish Wildfist a quick return to full health, but it seems like he's doing just fine. Still, please send him our regards.

Rennob: OK, I'll send regards but they won't be from me or anyone, just general regards.

KSCL'S TOP 100 ALBUMS OF 2007

1. WHITE STRIPES	"Icky Thump" - Warner Bros.
2. MODEST MOUSE	"We Were Dead Before The Ship Even Sank" Epic
3. THURSTON	"Trees Outside The Academy" - Ecstatic Peace
4. SONIC YOUTH	"Daydream Nation" - UME-Geffen
5. ARCADE FIRE	"Neon Bible" - Merge
6. ELLIOTT SMITH	"New Moon"- Kill Rock Stars
7. SMASHING PUMPKINS	"Zeitgeist" - Reprise
8. BRIGHT EYES	"Cassadaga" - Saddle Creek
9. WILCO	"Sky Blue Sky" - Nonesuch
10. CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY YEAH	"Some Loud Thunder" - Self-Released
11. OF MONTREAL	"Hissing Fauna, Are You The Destroyer?" Polyvinyl
12. BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE PRESENTS KEVIN DREW	"Spirit If..." - Arts And Crafts
13. TWO GALLANTS	"Two Gallants" - Saddle Creek
14. SOUNDTRACK	"I'm Not There" - Columbia-Sony
15. SPOON	"Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga" - Merge
16. M.I.A.	"Kala" - Interscope
17. SIGUR ROS	"Saeglopur" - Worker's Institute
18. JASON ANDERSON	"Tonight" - ECA
19. BLACK KEYS	"Magic Potion" - Nonesuch
20. PARTS AND LABOR	"Mapmaker" - Jagjaguwar
21. PATRICK WOLF	"The Magic Position" -Low Altitude-Universal
22. BJORK	"Volta" - Atlantic
23. ARCTIC MONKEYS	"Favourite Worst Nightmare" -Domino
24. POLYPHONIC SPREE	"The Fragile Army" -TVT
25. AVETT BROTHERS	"Introducing Emotionalism" - Ramseur
26. ARCHITECTURE IN HELSINKI	"Places Like This" -Polyvinyl
27. ANIMAL COLLECTIVE	"Strawberry Jam" -Domino
28. YEAH YEAH YEAHS	"Is Is [EP]" - Interscope
29. NEW PORNOGRAPHERS	"Challengers" - Matador
30. BLACK LIPS	"Good Bad Not Evil" -Vice
31. BLACK MOTH SUPER RAINBOW	"Dandelion Gum" - Graveface
32. BLACK FRANCIS	"Bluefinger" - Cooking Vinyl
33. CASS MCCOMBS	"Dropping The Writ" -Domino
34. SONDRE LERCHE	"Dan In Real Life" - Virgin
35. SIGUR ROS	"Hvarf-Heim" - XL
36. EISLEY	"Combinations" -Reprise-Warner Bros.
37. BILLY HARVEY	"Bearsick" - Gold
38. PATRICK WATSON	"Close To Paradise" - Secret City
39. STARS	"In Our Bedroom After The War" Arts And Crafts
40. OAKLEY HALL	"I'll Follow You"- Merge
41. CALVIN HARRIS	"I Created Disco" - Almost Gold
42. OCTOPUS PROJECT	"Hello, Avalanche" - Peek-A-Boo
43. LAURIE ANDERSON	"Big Science" - Warner Bros.
44. ZIBRAZIBRA	"777" - Royalty, Etc.
45. BLONDE REDHEAD	"23" -4AD
46. SONDRE LERCHE	"Phantom Punch" - Astralwerks
47. VHS OR BETA	"Bring On The Comets" -Astralwerks
48. JEFF BUCKLEY	"So Real: Songs From Jeff Buckley" - Legacy
49. MGMT	"Oracular Spectacular" - Columbia
50. KING DIAMOND	"Give Me Your Soul... Please" - Metal Blade
51. FRATELLIS	"Costello Music" - Cherry Tree-Interscope
52. TOM WAITS	"Orphans: Brawlers, Bawlers And Bastards" - Anti
53. CARIBOU	"Andorra" - Merge
54. GHOST OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE	"With Fiercest Demolition" - thirty ghosts
55. TEGAN AND SARA	"The Con" - Sire
56. PEEKERS	"Breakfast Parade (Season 2)" - Self-Released
57. DIRT FOOT	"Entertain Me"
58. NOIDS	"Meat The Noids"
59. CHEMICAL BROTHERS	"We Are The Night" - Astralwerks
60. KINGS OF LEON	"Because Of The Times" - RCA
61. HORSE THE BAND	"A Natural Death" - Koch
62. PIPETTES	"We Are The Pipettes" -Cherry Tree-Interscope
63. JUSTICE	"Cross (†)" -Vice-Ed Banger-Downtown
64. SHOOTING SPIRES	"Shooting Spires"
65. BRIGHT EYES	"Noise Floor: Rarities: 1998-2005" Saddle Creek
66. JOSE GONZALEZ	"In Our Nature"- Mute
67. BOB MARLEY	"Roots, Rock, Remixed" - Quango
68. BONDE DO ROLE	"Bonde Do Role With Lasers" - Domino
69. CHOIR PRACTICE	"The Choir Practice" - MINT RECORDS
70. SIMPLE KID	"2" - Yep Roc
71. JOHN DOE	"A Year In The Wilderness" - Yep Roc
72. EASTERN CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS	"Ameritown" - Suretone
73. OH NO! OH MY!	"Between The Devil And The Sea" - Dim Mak
74. FIONN REGAN	"The End Of History" - Lost Highway
75. BATTLES	"Tonto [EP]" - Warp
76. BILLIE HOLIDAY	"Remixed And Reimagined" - Legacy
77. OJOS DE BRUJO	"Techari Remixed" - Six Degrees
78. NINA SIMONE	"Just Like A Woman" - Columbia Legacy
79. SHAPES AND SIZES	"Split Lips, Winning Hips, A Shiner" Asthmatic Kitty
80. The Winks	"Birthday Party" - Ache
81. M. WARD	"Post-War" - Merge
82. IRON AND WINE	"The Shepherd's Dog" - SUB POP
83. ANDREW DOUGLAS ROTHBARD	"Abandoned Meander" - Smooch
84. PATTI SMITH	"Twelve" - Columbia
85. HANDSOME FURS	"Plague Park" - Sub Pop
86. MARILYN MANSON	"Eat Me Drink Me" - Interscope
87. JE SUIS FRANCE	"Afrikan Majik" - Antenna Farm
88. STEREO TOTAL	"Paris-Berlin" - Kill Rock Stars
89. RABBIT IS A SPHERE	"Laps In The Sleep Saloon" - Needlepoint
90. BALKAN BEAT BOX	"Balkan Beat Box" - JDub
91. CHARLES MINGUS	"Tijuana Moods" - RCA
92. OCTOPUS PROJECT AND BLACK MOTH SUPER RAINBOW	"The House Of Apples And Eyeballs" Graveface
93. FEIST	"The Reminder" - Cherry Tree-Interscope
94. BLAIR	"Pluto" - Self-Released
95. THE BLOW	"Poor Aim Love Songs" - K
96. RILO KILEY	"Under The Blacklight" - Warner Bros.
97. THEE MORE SHALLOWS	"Book Of Bad Breaks" - Anticon
98. TED LEO AND THE PHARMACISTS	"Living With The Living" Touch And Go
99. TV ON THE RADIO	"Return To Cookie Mountain" - Interscope
100. FOUNTAINS OF WAYNE	"Traffic And Weather" - Virgin

Congo Revisited

Volume 42, Issue 28, April 30, 1948.

Doctor Predicts that Tobacco Will Be Outlawed In Next 30 Years

In a speech to members of the Austin, Texas, Kiwanis club, Dr. W. Gordon Maddox predicted that tobacco will be outlawed completely within the next 3 0years as young people become acquainted with the fatal effects of Nicotene.

Dr. Maddox is a professor in the Southwestern Medical School of Dallas, Texas.

The speaker pointed out that with the increase of the number of smokers in the past two or three decades there has been a noticeable increase in the incidence of heart disease and cancer. Quoting from the experience of specialists, Dr. Maddox asserted that 12 per cent of all cancers are lung cancers and all these invariably occur in smokers.

"Since World War I, when women took up smoking," stated Dr. Maddox, "There is one lung cancer in women for every two in men."

Research has shown that 17,000,0000 persons, because of the poisonous effect of nicotene, will die of cancer. This is one out of every five persons in the United States he pointed out. This nation spends $250,000,000 yearly for tobacco.

Dr. Maddox asserted that in the 40 to 50 age bracket coronary occlusion has universally been found in smokers.

Final Exam Schedule

Day 1, Friday, Dec.
T1 (8:20) 8:30 – 11:30 am
M7 (2:00) 2:00 – 5:00 pm
T6 (5:30) 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Day 2, Saturday OR Sunday, Dec. 15,16
M3 (10:00) 8:30 – 11:30 am
M5 (12:00) 2:00 – 5:00 pm
T7 (7:00) 6:00 – 9:00 pm

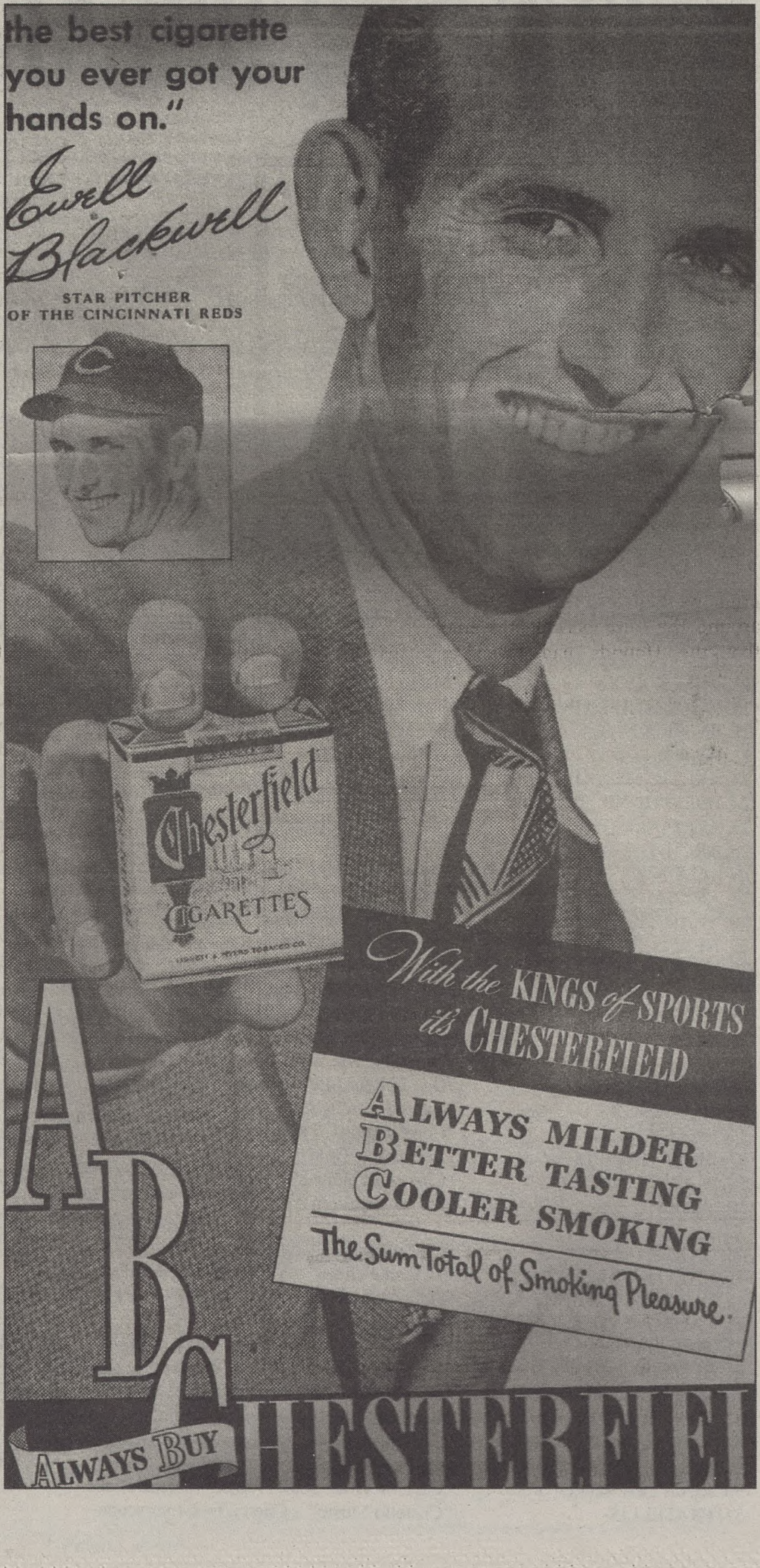
Day 3, Monday, Dec. 17
M9 (5:00) 8:00– 11:00pm
M2 (9:00) 8:00 – 11:00 am
T2 (9:45) 12:00 – 3:00 pm
T4 (2:00) 4:00 – 7:00 pm
M10 (6:30) 8:00 – 11:00 pm

Day 4, Tuesday, Dec. 18
M4 (11:00) 8:00 – 11:00 am
T3 (12:35) 12:00 – 3:00 pm
M8 (3:30) 4:00 – 7:00 pm
M11 (8:00) 8:00 – 11:00 pm

Day 5, Wednesday, Dec. 19
M1 (8:00) 8:00 – 11:00 am
M6 (1:00) 12:00 – 3:00 pm
T5 (3:30) 4:00 – 7:00 pm

For periods not listed above, the Professor will choose an exam time corresponding to the nearest listed exam time

Good Luck!


"the best cigarette
you ever got your
hands on."
Ewell Blackwell
STAR PITCHER
OF THE CINCINNATI REDS
Chesterfield
CIGARETTES
With the KINGS of SPORTS
it's CHESTERFIELD
ALWAYS MILDER
BETTER TASTING
COOLER SMOKING
The Sum Total of Smoking Pleasure.
ABC
ALWAYS BUY
CHESTERFIEL

SPORTS

Mudbugs getting back in the game

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

During the Thanksgiving holidays, while most of you were eating dinner with your families or traveling, many hockey fans were watching the Mudbugs slaughter the Youngstown SteelHounds in a 7-2 victory on November 30. Before the game really got under way, the Hounds scored a point shortly into the first period. However, the Bugs came back with not one, but two points, just seconds apart from each other. As the Bugs continued to play, around the third period, it seemed that the Hounds had given up, allowing the Bugs to score five more points before the ending buzzer of the game.

Staying hot through their next game against the Oklahoma Blazers on December 4, the Bugs showed determination through their seventh consecutive home win, and took the game 5-2. The Bugs and the Blazers seemed to go back and forth down the ice, the Bugs making a point shortly into the first period, but the Blazers coming back strong not long after. They took back control of home ice during the second period, scoring three points before the buzzer sounded for another break. Holding the score at 4-1 during most of the third period, the Bugs held off the Blazers for 1:38 of a 5-on-3 powerplay to the Blazers' advantage before the Blazers scored. Just 16 seconds later, however, the Bugs scored their fifth, and final, point of the night, taking away another victory for the Mudbugs.

The Bugs took on the Rocky Mountain Rage on Friday, December 7, and fell in a shootout, losing 5-4. Down 4-3 in the third period, the Bugs forced the Rage into overtime, but the Rage scored the only goal during the shootout. With what are considered two of the CHL's hottest teams going against each other, the hype was raised high for this game, as was expected. Four goals were scored in the first 13 minutes of the game, almost calling for a Guinness record! By the end of the first period, the Bugs were ahead 3-1, but the Rage came into the second period with a new focus, scoring three goals by the end of the period. Both teams played more conservatively on the ice during the third period, with both goalies making handfuls of saves. Hope you can catch the next Mudbug game!

Athlete of the Week: Men's basketball player reflects on road trips and possible frost bite

Ryan Thacker
Staff Writer

Full Name: Lance Leron Hill
Classification: Junior
Hometown: Houston, TX
Major: Business
Sport: Basketball
Position(s): Power forward, center

Why did you choose to come to Centenary?

I chose to come to Centenary because I wanted to go to a small Division I college close to home, where I can get a great education and at the same time compete in basketball at a high level.

How long have you been playing?

I have been playing basketball for about 12 years now.

What do you look forward to most this season?

What I look forward to most this season is winning more games than last year and winning the conference tournament so we can go to the NCAA tournament.

Who is your favorite professional team (any sport)?

My favorite professional team in basketball is the Phoenix Suns and for football it's the New England Patriots.

Who do you wish you could play this season?

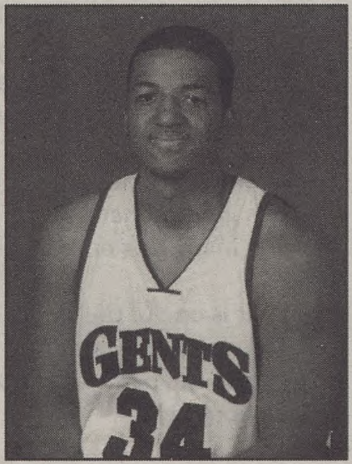
I wish I could play UCLA this season.

What's the craziest thing you have done on a road trip?

The craziest thing I have done on a road trip was last year in Alaska when I ran outside in –36 degree weather with shorts, a t-shirt, and flip flops on, with no socks, to get my coach's folder out of the van. If I would have stayed out there for another minute I would have caught frostbite on both of my legs!

Where's the most exciting place to play basketball?

The most exciting place to play basketball is probably at Madison Square Garden. I wish we could play one game there.



The Conglomerate presents: Life of a student athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

Well, it's the final journal from me until next semester. I have to admit it will hopefully be much more exciting after break, since I will be in season and will have much to share with you about our games. However, now it seems much more appropriate to highlight the basketball teams and their successes over the past several weeks, and the little things my team has done to finish off the fall season.

We had our annual Christmas party, catered by a local place, where we all brought gifts to exchange in the game White Elephant. This gives us softball players a time to dress up instead of wearing our usual maroon and white windsuits or sweats and a ball cap. Lots of photos were taken and lots of laughs were heard.

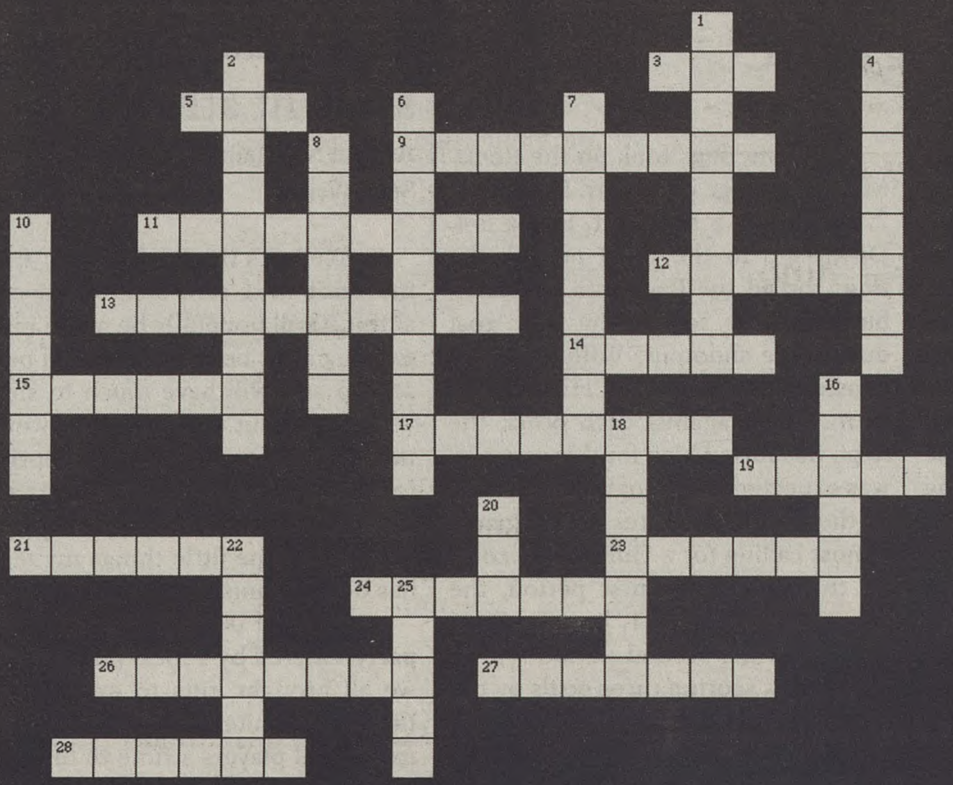
Our fall practices ended with a much-needed team scrimmage, leaving us on a positive note heading into the spring season. The pitchers continued to shine on the mound, as did our hitters at the plate. So overall, it was a very productive day. And the best part of leaving the fall season behind is the construction going on right now on our field. Old dugouts are being demolished and new ones are being built.

But moving on from the great sport of softball, I would like to congratulate our men's basketball team for beating South Dakota State at home for their conference home opener—the first time since 2003. It's exciting to have a competitive team that plays with class and represents our college so well. Congrats on a great season thus far. Keep up the good work.

Anyways, that is about all I have for the semester and I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Enjoy the break and get ready for some great softball this spring.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE:

POTTER TRIVIA PART II



ACROSS
3. What is Severus Snape's patronus?
5. What color does a Remembrall turn when you forget something?
9. What did Lupin give Harry after he fainted?
11. What word does Harry say that ultimately leads to the trio being sent to the Malfoy Manor?
12.What color are Ollivander's eyes?
13. What does Hagrid use to slick his hair back? (2 wds)
14. How many black robes are first years required to bring to Hogwarts?
15. What color are Buckbeak's eyes?
17.Who gives Hermione permission to search the Restricted section of the library?
19. What is Gilderoy Lockhart's favorite color?
21. Who does Ron get paired with in Dueling practice?
23. Who is an Acromantula?
24. The type of wand that Harry carries is Holly and _______ feather
26. Which Professor's office was Sirius Black locked in, awaiting the dementors?
27, The crow of a ________ is fatal to a basilisk.
28. What chess piece does Ron represent in McGonnagal's giant chess game?

DOWN
1. How many times was Nearly Headless Nick hit with an axe?
2. The statue next to the Prefects bathroom is called Boris the _______.
4. What team did Ireland play in the World Cup?
6. Who gave Harry his first real broom?
7. What does Ron's parents give him when he comes of age? (2 wds)
8. What part of his body did Ron leave behind on his Apparition test?
10. What creature's blood is silver?
16. What is Ginny's nickname for Fleur?
18. What is the first name of Draco Malfoy's grandfather?
20. How many legs does a Hinkypunk have?
22. What is one of the things that Dulbledore leaves Harry?
25. What is the name of Hepzibah Smith's house elf?

Horoscopes

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) The semester is almost over, the weather is getting slightly cooler, but don't worry somethings around Centenary never change... like the sprinkler system's wacky schedule and killer squirrells. Ok so those two examples are over-used, if you want originality buy me some coffee!

Capricorn (12/22 –1/20) The leaves are changing, exams are already here, and your self esteem has dropped significantly. Is your horoscope sounding too much like Sagittarius? Well maybe that means the two of you should get together, you might be compatible. Then you will get into an overly dramatic and emotinall draining relationship in the middle of exams and then you'll both fail. Don't say I didn't warn you.

Aquarius (1/21-2/19) You have found yourself to be a rather lazy person lately, you've been subject to severe procrastination, taking long naps when you should be studying, and playing minesweeper during class on your laptop. I support you in your new slacker lifestyle. You may be wondering, what about exams? I say forget 'em, slacking is for the cool kids.

Pisces (2/20-3/20) You, unlike that dog Aquarius, have been eerily productive lately. This has caused your friends great confusion and disturbance. Laugh in their faces and show those over-achievers that you weren't lying when you said you could be a good student if you really wanted.

Aries (3/21-4/20) Keep telling yourself that that hairsyle is sexy. You'll see the truth in time.

Taurus (4/21-5/21) Call me crazy, but I am not too keen on staying up all night without any sleep. I'm sure you aren't either. So I can't say I'm too sad this semester is over. I am sure you agree, but rather you are wondering what this has to do with your horoscope. Oh... well you will have a beautiful week and sleep filled winter break. Enjoy it.

Gemini (5/22-6/21) Bow chicka wow wow. This will be your theme music for the rest of the week. Use it wisely grasshopper.

Cancer (6/22-7/23) Its pronounced care - ah -mel. Other pronunciations give you cancer. And you're cancer, so you have a 5 in 6 chance. I don't know what that means.

Leo (7/24-8/23) Everytime you complain about something pointless a Catahoula loses an ear. And everytime you apologize about complaining a squirrell loses its tail. And everytime you complain about how much you've been complaining someone shoots themselves in the eye..like your roommate.

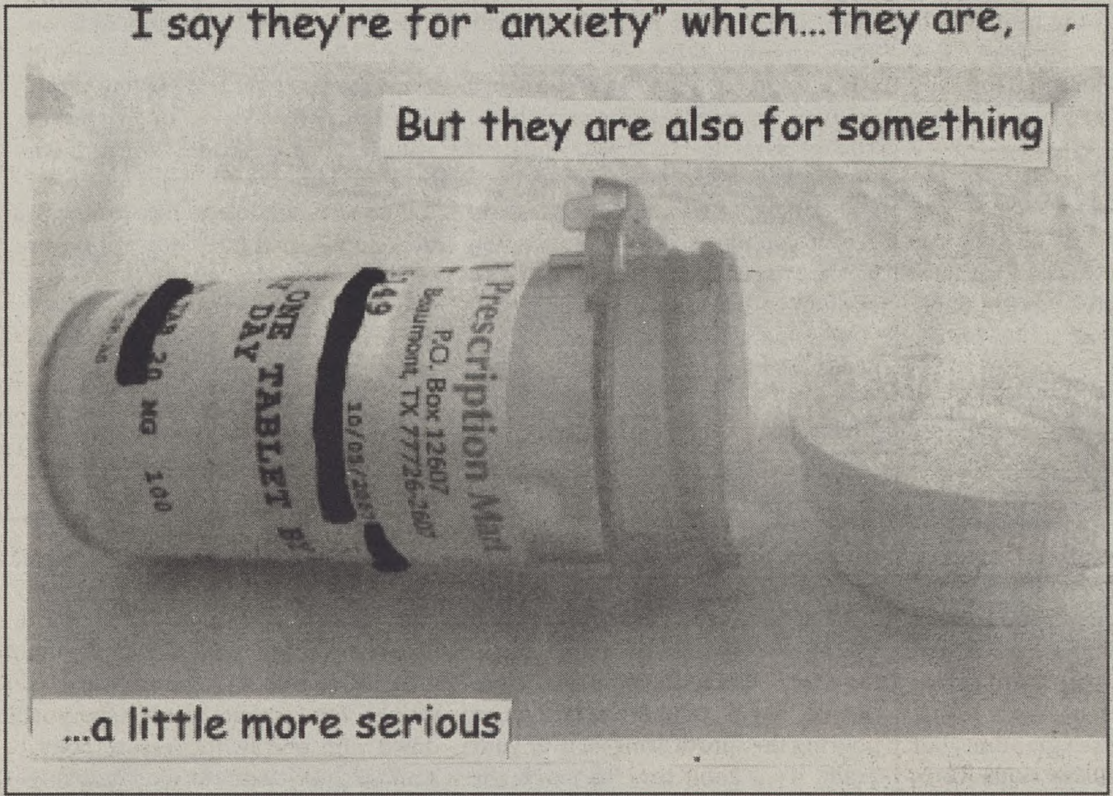
Virgo (8/24 –9/23) You killed Shakespeare. Yes, you! I don't know whether to thank you or slap you. Either way you killed one of the most prolific and revered writers of all time. Shame on you! But I have to admit I'm a little impressed, I mean really, how did you kill someone that was already dead?

Libra (9/24-10/22) I am running out of space, and inspiration. You?

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) Wouldn't Karate Kid be a much more entertaining if it Mr. Miagi was gay? Instead of teaching Daniel-san karate and the proper care of bonsai trees he would be instructing him on window treatments and the worship of Barbra Streisand.

Centenary Secrets

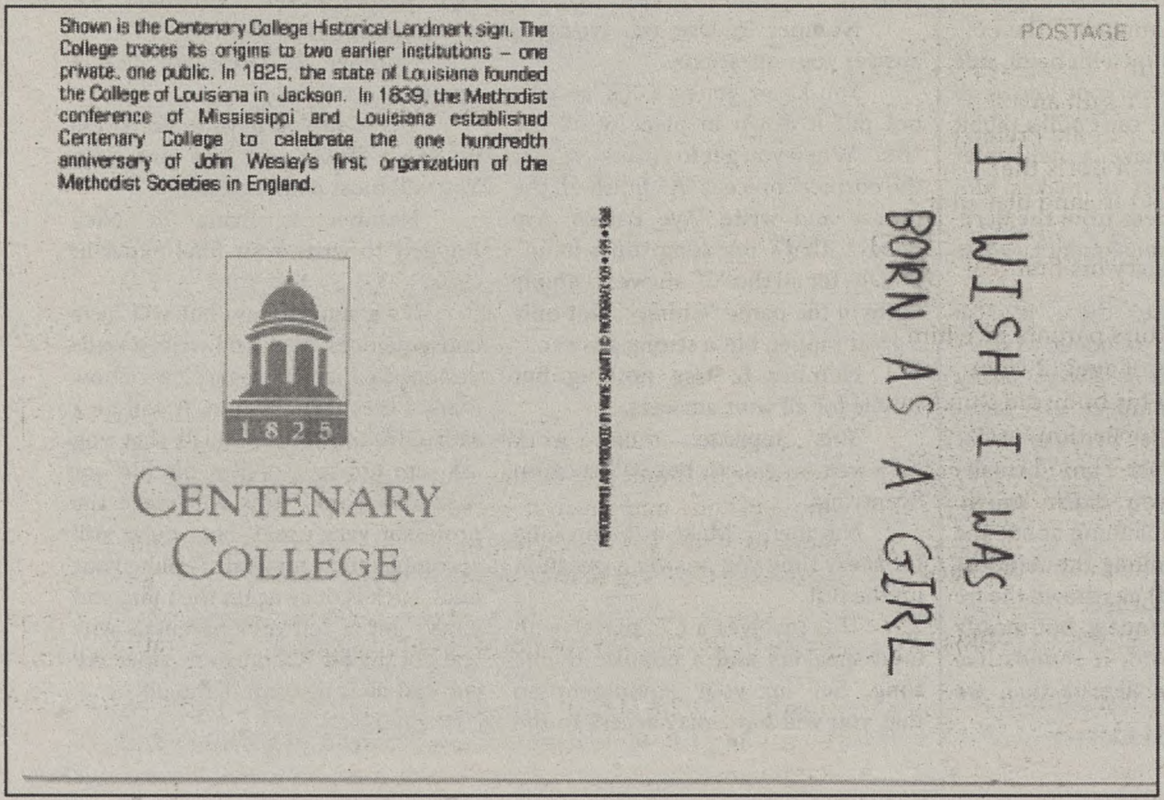
In honor of the newly released Post Secret book "Lifetime of Secrets" the Conglomerate will be printing secrets of Centenary students.
In order to participate take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box #786 or slip it under the Conglomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.



I say they're for "anxiety" which...they are,

But they are also for something

...a little more serious



Shown is the Centenary College Historical Landmark sign. The College traces its origins to two earlier institutions – one private, one public. In 1825, the state of Louisiana founded the College of Louisiana in Jackson. In 1839, the Methodist conference of Mississippi and Louisiana established Centenary College to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of John Wesley's first organization of the Methodist Societies in England.

I WISH I WAS
BORN AS A GIRL

Courtney Delaney is amazing and you love her!

CENTENARY CONCERT WIRE

Friday, December 14th
Adema, Reflections Burn, and Grid
10 pm at the Warehouse.
For more information, please visit the venue's website at www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

Saturday, December 15th
Outlaw Nation, Southern Knuckle Punch, and Afflicted
10 pm at the Warehouse
For more information, please visit the venue's website at www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

Saturday, December 15th
BrokenbyEnvy, Sadistic Reprisal, Aesthetic, WhereMoonIs, I Wrestled A Bear Once
8 pm at Harlequin Alley
For more information, please visit the venue's website at www.myspace/harlequinalley

Friday, December 21st
Adam Dale, Gray Schuler, and Cameron Meshell
9 pm at the Warehouse.
For more information, please visit the venue's website at www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

Saturday, December 22nd
Nightmare Before X-Mas! with Kringe, Crackfight, Power Pellut, Fallen to Rise, and Tyrants of Steel
9 pm at the Warehouse.
For more information, please visit the venue's website at www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

Satire: Michael Jarboe's top ten ways to fail your finals

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

So, I've been given an unthinkable task. I know I was supposed to be prepared for this, but it came at me like a hawk on a winter's night. I, my friends, must do my best at creating a satirical Top Ten list that has recently been owned by the great, the legend, the Texas tornado: Nick Rougely. Wish me luck, fellow countrymen... and women. It's time to take it to the next level.

Number 10: Make a P.B.J sandwich on your professor's desk.

It's pretty self-explanatory. Right as your professor has finished passing out the test to everyone in the class, quietly stand up, bring your material, walk, and sit down upon his/her desk and begin spreading. For extra fun, every time you take the next step in the sandwich-making process, talk out loud in the third person and describe your step and how it makes you feel. "Michael puts the peanut butter on the slice of bread. Michael doesn't like crunchy peanut butter, but it's all Michael had. Michael's sandwich-eating experience will not be pleasant."

Number 9: Tell your classmates as much information as you can about the country of Colombia.

Nothing will piss off not only your classmates but your professor more than reciting facts about a country no one really cares about. You're sure to fail your final if throughout the process you decide it's a good idea to try out your Mexican accent you never work on, offending all the Hispanic students in the class. "Columbia has a great soccer team!" "Colombia is known for its coffee beans and illegal drug substances!" "Senors y Senoritas, Shakira is from Colombia!"

Number 8: Pour Gatorade on each individual page of your test.

Not only a fun and "sticky" situation to put yourself in, but you also will be more pumped for the test. Pouring Gatorade on each page will solidify that you are the tough guy in the class. No one can stop you. Once people begin noticing that you're pouring the sports drink all over your exam, it's a good time to psych the individual papers out. "Is it in you, baby? Huh? I can't hear you! Is it in you?"

Number 7: Use rap lyrics to answer your questions.

You know you're a "G," so why not put it down in place of all the "B's?" When you get to an answer that the correct choice is "A," finish off the phrase and write "Aye Babay/ Aye Babay/ That's my song, turn it up." Finally, for all the "C" answers, simply write in the name "Chingy." Not only a great rapper, but a strong answer.

Number 6: Use nothing but Braille for all your answers.

This approach won't work very well on essays, but will rock on Scantrons.

Number 5: Make a theme song for every time you answer a question on the test.

This involves a CD player with loud speakers and a popular theme song. Set up your equipment so that you will have easy access to the "play" button at all times. Begin your test, and every time you bubble in an answer (whether right or wrong) press play and let "Eye of the Tiger" beam from your amps.

Number 4: Have a barbershop quartet sing all your notes for you.

As you look at the test in front of you and begin to stumble and lose track of what you studied, snap your fingers three times, and out will come four men wearing peppermint-colored suits. Have them gather around your desk and direct them to begin singing. It's really not hard to find some people to help you with this stunt. The choir kids are never really doing anything (wink).

Number 3: Do the "robot" dance move from the beginning to end of class.

Walk into the class very stiff, and as you're about to sit down, jolt up and start the famous dance move. Catch eyes with your professor and begin cornering them into the back of the room. Depending upon the teacher, they will decide what reaction they may take. For instance, Dr. Stafford would probably punch you in the face. Dr. Hamming, who of course is trained for combat, would take you down with one swift pressure point. And Dr. Prickett would probably begin dancing with you since he was the one who started the robot at his high school prom. Remember the good time, Dr. Prickett.

Number 2: Dress up like a Smurf.

That's all you have to do. Dress up like a Smurf and take your test. You will most definitely fail.

Number 1: Bring in Nick Rougely to write your final paper in class.

It's a genius plan, but will have consequences. Nick will write a well-designed paper, but regardless of how many times you ask him, it will be a satire. He'll also use words that you ask him not to use, like "bitchin'" or "badonka-donk." This will make the professor very upset, but you've still accomplished your goal of failing your final. Nick is once again the man, and you've got to tell your parentals why you got the fat "C" on your paper. All you can do is just say, "Chingy!"

Satire: Santa's forgotten reindeer

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

It's Christmas time again, and I think it's time to set the record straight on this whole reindeer business. Santa failed to mention a few of his helpful reindeer in his story. Okay, so they're not the greatest of reindeer, not like the all-famous Rudolph and his stupid, shining red nose.

But they are worth mentioning, because they are part of the story. Everyone knows the famous ones Santa mentions: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donder, Blitzen, and, of course, Rudolph. Here are just a few of the many unmentioned reindeer.

1. R Dizzle is the rapping reindeer of the North Pole. He can spin a rhyme in just a shizzle (that would be a second, for those of you that don't speak Dizzle Lizzle, or Deer Lingo). Santa probably wouldn't mention him because of his thuggish manner and gangster style. In the North Pole, he's sort of a bad ass to the rest of the reindeer, holding constant rap battles in his section of the barn. Many say he's the "Black Sheep" of the herd, but others say he's a hip-hop genius.

2. Foxilicious is an exotic deer dancer and aspiring actress. She works at the North Pole part-time, dancing for the male reindeer during the off season. Not really proud of her work, Foxilicious is scorned by the other female reindeer at the North Pole because of her Vixen-like tendencies. Vixen hates the fact that another deer is macking on her territory, but Santa won't let her have her say in the matter. Maybe Santa is getting a little Foxy action on the side...

3. Buford is the redneck comedian for the reindeer community in the North Pole. He holds several sold out stand-up tours throughout the area, telling jokes about how Santa went on a diet last year, which didn't work, and how his grandmother was in jail for spitting on a cop last Christmas, which I'm not sure is true or not. There is also a rumor that he was the reindeer that ran over someone else's grandma, but there was no conclusive evidence in the matter.

4. The Great Fantastic, otherwise known as Bill, is the worst magician in the reindeer community. The only thing he is really known for being able to do is fly, which everyone knows all reindeer can do. He can't pull a rabbit from a hat, or make a helicopter disappear. This sort of makes him the banished reindeer from the herd. And we all know banishment is worse than death...

5. Of course, there is also Racey, the Albino reindeer. As her name suggests, she is always saying that the other reindeer are racist and make fun of her because of her whiteness (reindeer are actually brown, in case you didn't know). Her constant complaining about the lack of diversity among the reindeer (Rudolph excluded) has drawn the ire of several of the reindeer, but mostly R Dizzle and Buford. It sounds like reindeer are more like us than we imagined.

The CONGLOMERATE

January 18, 2008 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 14

Gubernatorial Inauguration

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Louisiana now officially has its first non-white head of state and the youngest governor in the United States. Piyush "Bobby" Jindal was inaugurated as the 55th Governor of Louisiana on Monday, January 14th, on the steps of the State Capitol in Baton Rouge. Jindal, a Republican and the first Indian-American governor in the entire nation, succeeds Democratic Governor Kathleen Blanco.

Much of the nation and even the world watched the gubernatorial campaign last year with interest – Louisiana has had no shortage of headlines in the past few years, from Hurricane Katrina to LSU shootings (and national football championships). The news that what is typically perceived as a very conservative state elected the son of Indian immigrants to be its next governor certainly made waves in the worldwide press, and Jindal took the official seat in the spotlight.

TV pundits noted that in his inauguration speech, Jindal spoke about ethics reform with a never-before-used term tagged on – "comprehensive." Opponents who thought he has been vague or too redundant about these reforms finally had some action to see already beginning on Tuesday. "He promised to do ethics reform first," said Centenary Professor of Political Science Dr. Rodney Grunes, "and his executive orders (no need for legislative approval) [on Tuesday] did involve changing some of the state procedures involving ethics."

JindaliscallingthestateCongress into a special session beginning on February 10th to discuss that ethics reform, which some see as a fast and positive step forward. Matthew Wallace, a Centenary sophomore who worked as a Field Representative for the Jindal campaign, said, "I think Governor Jindal is going to hit the ground running with the special sessions…I'm really excited about this fresh start for Louisiana."

This early action certainly lives up to his campaign mantra of "we can change, we must change, we will change," which Jindal repeated with confidence in closing Monday's speech. The new governor also has the fortune to inherit the state at a time when it has a sizable economic surplus; the necessary next step is to use that money well (many look to the still-recovering Gulf Coast area), because as Jindal and many others have pointed out, such monetary bonuses have been subject to poor decision-making in the state's past.

Jindal, a big LSU football fan, was also on an apparent high from last week's victory over Ohio in the national championship game – he mentioned it twice during the inauguration. Not surprisingly, the quips were very well-received in the state capital, home to Death Valley.

"It's a great time for us to take Louisiana to the next level in 2008," said Wallace. The state, as well as the rest of the nation and even parts of the world, will be watching every step of this young governor's path, as he takes the mantle of a proud state in need of development and improvement.

INSIDE **Presidential primary results, pages 4–5**

Comedian Craig Robinson comes to Centenary, page 10

LSU triumps at national championship, page 14

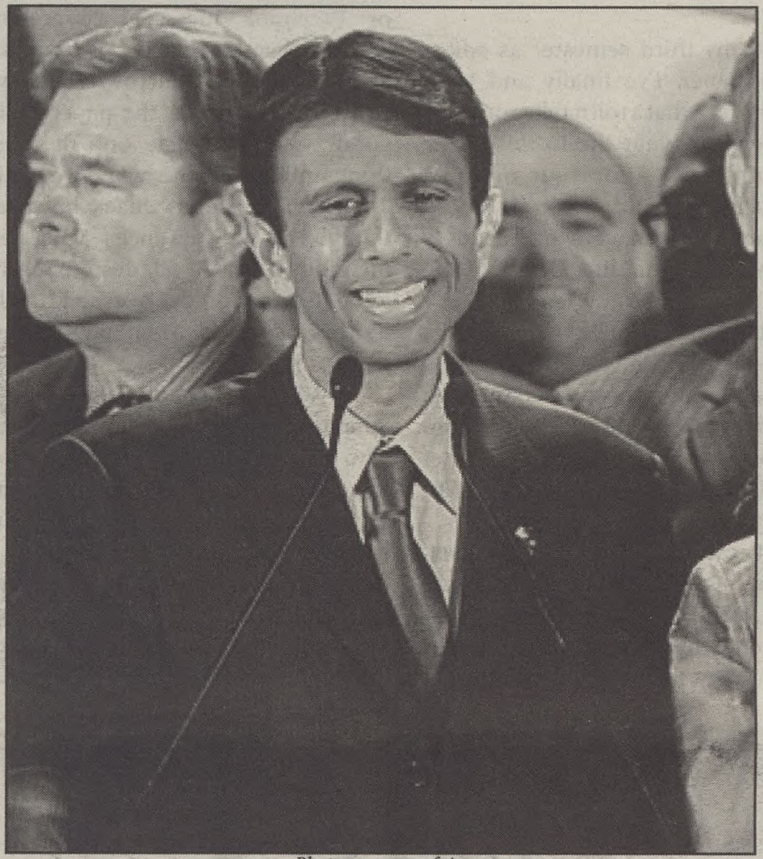


Photo courtesy of time.com

Governor Bobby Jindal's inaugural speech

President Chaisson, Speaker Tucker, Statewide elected officials, Chief Justice Calogero and Justices of the Supreme Court, members of the legislature;

Governor Treen, Governor Foster, Governor Roemer, Governor Blanco, Governor Perry;

My beautiful wife Supriya, and my family; honored guests, friends, and my fellow Louisianians…it is with gratitude in my heart and determination in my spirit that I stand before you today.

Thanks be to Almighty God.

It is great to be with you today, a milestone on what is a long and important journey.

We come to the steps of this historic Capitol today to celebrate not just an election, but a new beginning. We are here not for one man to take an oath, but for one people to make commitments to each other.We are here not to inaugurate one administration opposite from those before, but to set forth together…all of us…toward a new era.

For reasons none of us can understand or fully appreciate, history has placed all of us – every living Louisianian, those within her borders and without – in a position previous generations could only envy.

Under the spotlight of the world, with generosity from many and a clear call to common purpose…we have the opportunity to make lasting and positive change.

We have the opportunity to make this change not over the course of decades, but in short order. We have the opportunity to affect not just our own children's lives…but the lives of Louisiana children yet to be born. We have the opportunity – born of tragedy but embraced still the same – to make right decades of failure in government.

You have often heard me say that we do not have a poor state, but a state with poor leadership. That we do not have a state stuck in the past, but leaders who were unconcerned with the future.

If we are honest with ourselves, we can all agree that too many of the stereotypes rang true.

In our past, too many politicians looked out for themselves. Too many armsof state and local government did not get results. And the world took note. Those stereotypes cost us credibility. They cost us investment. They cost us jobs.

Let us all resolve…Democrats and Republicans, North Louisiana and South, leaders of all races and religions, elected and unelected, let us all resolve that era ends today.

continued on page 3

Letter from the Editor: A plea for involvement and meeting attendance

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

In my third semester as editor of this paper, I've finally and truly realized just what a toll it takes on one's life. Devoting your life to this paper has high costs – for your personal life, social life, and if you're not so good at time management, certainly for your academic life. Most of the layout staff here know and willingly pay that price, week after week. When we tell fellow students of the literal all-night layouts we go through – 36 hours without sleep, with no alcohol involved? – we're often met with incredulity. Sometimes, I'm incredulous myself.

It can be worth it, however, as long as you, dear readers, are happy with the final product. Every comment you make, whether good or bad – every exclamation shouted at me or another staff member across campus about enjoying the last issue, or Facebook message disagreeing with a theatre review, or one-line email justifying Courtney Delaney's existence by saying "the paper looks good" – every single one of those things makes all the work worth it. This isn't a plea for feedback, however, though that's always nice – what gets me giddy, most of all, despite all the sleep deprivation I've accrued thanks to this paper, is when people join staff.

When new people show up to Sunday night meetings, or old writers who disappeared decide to take up at the computer keyboard again – that, simply put, makes me happy. We're working our hardest to present a more diverse Conglomerate than ever before, one small paper that covers at least a good chunk of the issues out there in the news world, and we can only get better with your help. We are looking for any and all interested staff writers: you can join up with the old standards of Features, Arts & Entertainment, or Sports, or invent your own column if you think you have a sufficiently interesting idea (check with us on that one first, though). Even if it's just one letter to the editor about the environmental crisis or a one-time piece on, er, the tragically downward spiral of Britney Spears and what that means for Southern stereotypes, we welcome it with open arms (conditional only on the quality of spelling, perhaps). You will likely receive a response from the editorial staff peppered with exclamation marks, just for writing. We like to maintain an aura of professionalism around here.

That said, write to us. Email us, Facebook us, write little old-school notes on paper to us in class that make us feel special – and students, definitely come to Sunday night meetings, at 9 pm in the office (if not for the newspaper itself, at least for the laughs). We keep forgetting to jot down the quotes that come out of this meetings, but just trust me when I say they're worth the trip from your residence hall to the SUB.

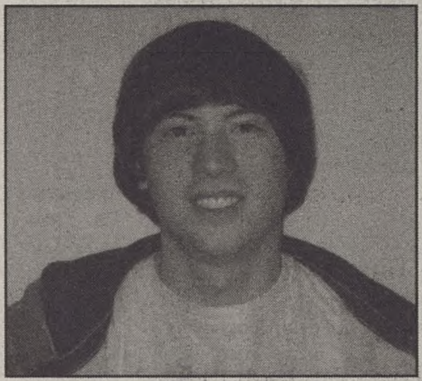
Lastly, I'd like to welcome Stephanie Schreiber to the editorial staff. She's taking over the position of Features Editor from our beloved Aleks Kasztalska, who is enjoying herself in France this semester. Stephanie was a dedicated Co-Circulation Manager last semester and makes an amazing addition to our staff – some may say she even constitutes another reason to come to meetings, perhaps...

question of the week

WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

"Make more cookies to keep my residents from leaving."
-Alysha Wallace,
Junior

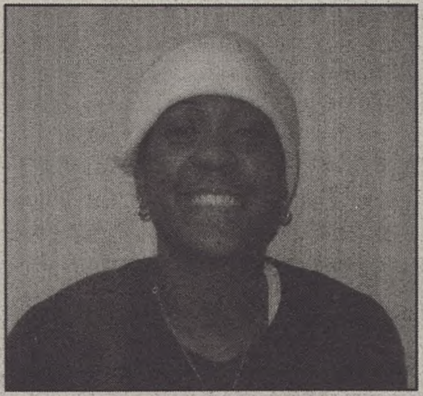
"Stay positive."
-Ashley Sholar,
Senior



"Work out more."
-Jason Kay,
Junior

"Stay black."
-Sammy Robinson,
Sophomore

"Live life (hardcore)."
-Maegan Daigle,
Senior



"Work hard in the classroom."
-Monique Jefferson,
Sophomore

Letter from the SGA President: Expect bigger and better activities

Holly Williams, Senior

Now that we are beginning the second half of the school year, it is time to reflect on the fall semester in order to best prepare for the spring. What has SGA done for you? So far this year, we have brought to you "Best Seat in the House," discounted tickets and t-shirts to the Gents vs. Texas Tech basketball game, and named a new mascot.

Beyond athletics, we have supported student organizations and individual students in their endeavors to improve campus. Craig Robinson will be on campus on January 26, 2008 due to our support of Fighting Squirrels Productions.

What can you expect from your SGA this semester? First, in just four short weeks (February 17), Homecoming 2008 will kick-off in the Fitness Center. Be sure to come for dinner and a chance to get your free shirt (in the correct size). Second, the SGA along with the Centennial Committee is bringing you the first annual BIG Event on March 29th.

This is a campus wide community service project. We will be doing small tasks on homes in the Highland area. Also, look forward to forums, tailgate parties, and other community service projects.

We are always open to suggestions, and your presence at our meetings (every Tuesday at 8pm in the Centenary Room) is always welcome. Remember these are your student fees being put to use! If you have any questions or ideas, please send them directly to me, hwilliam@centenary.edu. Thank you and I look forward to a great semester!

Inaugural speech continued

We can build a Louisiana where our leaders and our people set the highest standards and hold every member of our government accountable. A Louisiana where incompetence is not a synonym for government. A Louisiana where corruption does not hold us back.

That is why I am asking for your help in the next few months.We must win a war on corruption and incompetence in government. It cannot be the last thing we do. It cannot be the second or third thing we do. It must be the first thing we do. Our biggest obstacle in the past must become our first victory toward a brighter future.

Today, I am here to tell you that on February 10th – just weeks from today - I will call the legislature into special session to consider comprehensive ethics reform.

And I need your help to insist that we get the job done.

We will come to this Capitol to make a clean break with the past. To give Louisiana the highest standards for accountability anywhere in the nation. To take our government 180 degrees from the darkest chapters of its past.

When we have accomplished ethics reform, we will move next to economic reform. For too long our regulations and burdensome taxes have driven away job-makers instead of attracting them. Our workforce training has stayed grounded in the economy of a century now past.

That too must change.

We have great workers. With a great work ethic that is part of our culture. It is time for state government to catch up...so that there is no weak link in our appeal to employers looking to grow.

I will ask our legislature this year to re-orient our workforce training to meet the challenges and skills required by the global economy.

And our administration will streamline its demands of job-makers. Our message will be clear...if you want to grow your company, Louisiana wants to grow with you. With a guarantee that state government will be your ally, and that our workers will be ready to do your high-skill jobs on their very first day.

These reforms are essential to our turnaround.

We cannot settle for cosmetic change. And we all must recognize the stakes.When we succeed....the world will take note.They will take note in the laboratories of Silicon Valley.They will take note in the board rooms of Wall Street.And they will take note in the living rooms scattered across Houston and Atlanta and Dallas...where former Louisianians now live...many of them our best and our brightest...in exile from an uncertain future at home.

We must bring them home.

That capital. That energy. Those assets...they are all poised to come to Louisiana and help us remake our economy. And if we make a clean start, they will come.In some ways, this focus on ethics is meant to be a beacon.And we must light that beacon to inspire Louisianians everywhere...whether they live in Monroe or Manhattan...Franklinton or Florida...Tensas or Texas.You see, the fire and drive of Louisianians are the only things that can power our rebirth.

Fortunately, we are blessed.

It is possible that there has never been a more creative group of people than the group called Louisianians.No one anywhere in the world doubts our talents or creative energy. They wait in line to listen to our music. They revere our athletes.They marvel at our state's film and visual arts.

They envy our celebrations and flock to them every year...

And they all try to imitate our cuisine. Across the entire civilized world, when it comes to culture, the word "Louisiana" stands for innovation and quality.

Those talents, given by God and nurtured by a community that values creativity, will enable us to turn our state around.

Wherever you are today hearing my voice...to my fellow Louisianians...those gathered here at the Capitol...to those inside our borders and outside...I ask you to come home. Come home in person. Or send home your commitment. Make Louisiana's rebirth your own priority.

If you're a Louisiana small business owner trying to get started, stick it out another year. If you own companies in other states, grow your business here. If you teach in our schools, if you serve your community...redouble your efforts. Join in our cause. Make every day not just a job but a mission. With clarity of purpose and commitment to our pursuit...we will not fail. And let me be clear about exactly the kind of New Louisiana I envision. I do not speak of a state that rebuilds to where we were before the storms.

The truth is, too many of our schools were failing before the storms. Our roads were substandard before the storms. Our economy was behind, before the storms.

And now...for reasons beyond our earthly comprehension, this opportunity...this mandate...has been placed on our generation.

We must rise to this challenge.

Our goal is a New Louisiana where success is shared by all Louisianians. Not just our cities. Not just our suburbs. Not just one group or one class – but everyone who believes in Louisiana. A vibrant economy and high-performing schools are things that every Louisiana community deserves...from the Delta to the Bayou.

This New Louisiana will not come easily...but it will come...it can happen...it can change...it must change...it WILL change.

I will close by offering you this reflection. Two centuries ago, Louisiana was the economic focal point of the entire country. Just as the water of the rivers in America flowed to Louisiana...so flowed the harvest of America to Louisiana. It built one of the world's great cities...and a magnet for entrepreneurs and innovators and capitalists. In today's world, the great harvest in our economy is not measured in bushels and bales, but in brainpower. In the knowledge-based economy of this century, investment and opportunity flow to places where the workforce is prepared...the business climate welcoming. In short, the opportunities flow to places focused on the future and driven to do something about it.

That is how we will run our New Louisiana government. Twenty-first century schools and colleges. Curricula linked to our new economy. Quality teachers. Accountability for results. A business climate second to none...that rewards risk-takers...welcomes entrepreneurs. A government ready to help and efficient enough to get out of the way. Infrastructure to take advantage of our resources. A modern health care system that provides for all. And a safe quality of life where you can raise children in peace.

Our New Louisiana will be a magnet for the dreamers...the risk-takers...the adventurers...the leaders of America's new economy. That New Louisiana will give our citizens the opportunities they deserve. That is the kind of reform we will bring. That is our goal. That is our charge.

I have said it before and I will say it again...we can change....we must change...we will change.

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Republican Mitt Romney wins first primary

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

In the latest presidential primary on Tuesday the 15th, Republican candidate Mitt Romney won a key victory in Michigan. It was his first major win in a primary so far.

"It was a necessary victory for Romney, who had not won in Iowa or New Hampshire where he had expected to win," said Professor of Political Science Dr. Rodney Grunes. "To his credit, he did talk about economic recovery in Michigan, a state that is already in recession."

Romney's talk about economic recovery centered on revamping the automobile industry, which was once a boon to the state and is now languishing, troubled by lost jobs

Many political analysts who have been monitoring the presidential campaign and primaries have been skeptical of Romney's validity as a Republican candidate, mostly because of his Mormon faith and his low profile prior to his run for the White House. The former governor of Massachusetts is making waves with his latest win, however, and has taken the spotlight for the caucuses in Nevada and South Carolina this weekend. Romney has also fared better so far than popular figure Rudy Giuliani.

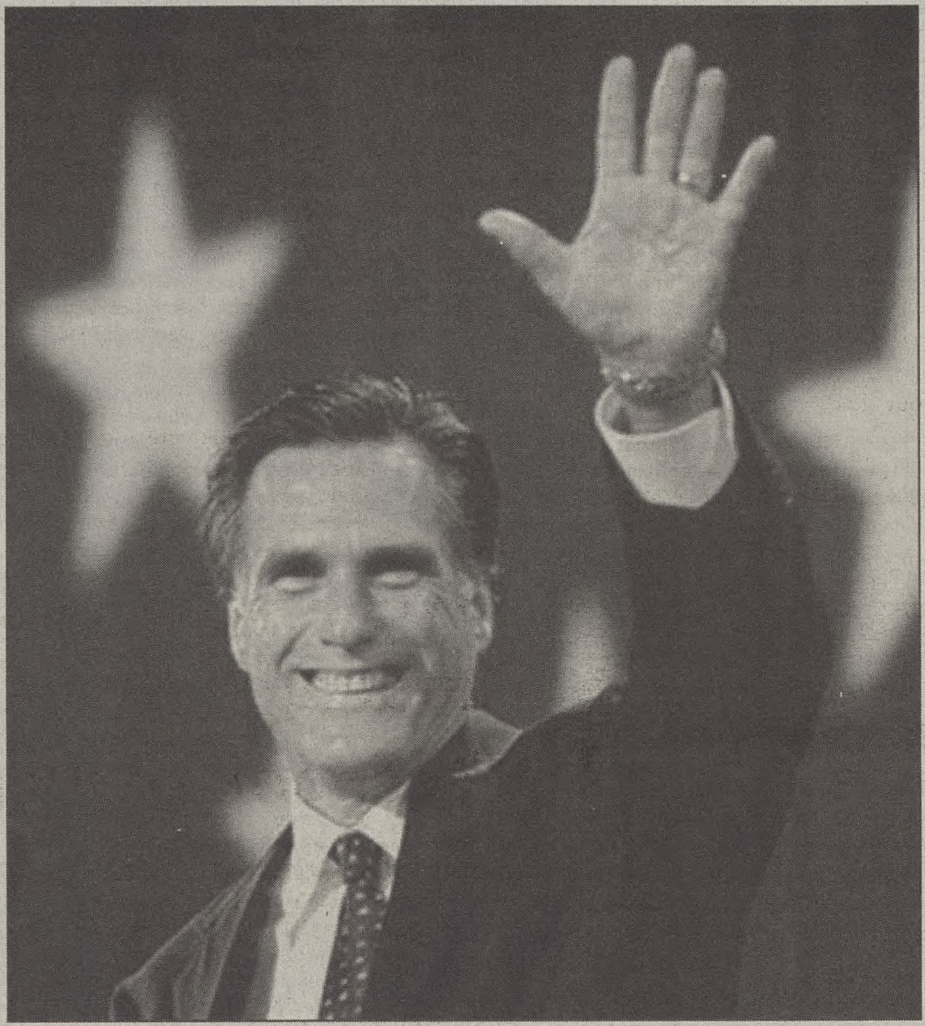


Photo of Mitt Romney courtesy of www.americansforprosperity.org.

As for the Democrats, Michigan was not such a key state. "Turnout was low because the Democratic National Committee is seeking to punish the state by denying the seating of delegates because of the frontloading of the primary," said Dr. Grunes. "Moving it to January angered the Party." The Democratic Party has set rules that say only the states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada, and South Carolina can hold nominating votes before February 5th. Michigan's decision to schedule its primary much earlier than usual on January 15th violated those rules.

In addition to the Committee taking action, Democratic candidates Barack Obama, John Edwards, and Joe Biden withdrew their names from the Michigan ballot for much the same reasons. Not necessarily linking with the absence of those names on the ballot, Hillary Clinton won.

"[She] received enough independent votes to deny the state to McCain, who expected a repeat of 2000 when he won the GOP primary in Michigan," said Dr. Grunes.

Clinton will go head to head with Obama this weekend in Nevada, where the large Hispanic vote and the heavy influence of unions are expected to shape the results for the Democrats. Republicans will also be holding caucuses in Nevada, but most of their attention will likely be on South Carolina, which represents the first primary vote taking place in the stalwart conservative South.

Learning Lab Schedule

Writing Lab
Sun-Thur 8-10 pm

Learning Labs (various subjects available)
Sun-Thurs 6-9 pm

The labs should be opening starting on the 23rd.

Centenary Athletics

Good Luck to Men's and Women's Swim Team Saturday
Come out and support them as they take on
Texas Christian Univeristy at 1 oclock this
Saturday in the Fitness Center! Drown the Frogs, Gents!

Ladies and Gentlemen, Let's Get Ready to Rumble!
Come holler in the Dome Saturday as they play against IUPUI
3:00pm for the Ladies and 5:30pm for the Gents
Jam the Jags! Go Gents!

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2008

Huckabee and Obama win Iowa; McCain and Clinton triumph in New Hampshire

Beth Craft
Staff Writer

Iowa and New Hampshire were the first two states to hold presidential primaries. The state of Iowa held its caucuses on January 3, 2008. Both the Republican and Democrat parties had closed caucuses, meaning only voters registered with the party could vote at the respective caucuses. Barack Obama won the Democratic caucus with 38% of the vote; John Edwards trailed with 30%, followed by Hilary Clinton, who caught 29% of the vote. Mike Huckabee triumphed over the other Republican candidates, obtaining 34% of the Republican vote while Mitt Romney managed to snatch 25% (percentages courtesy of CNN). When asked about Huckabee's victory in Iowa, Holly Talley, College Republican President at Louisiana Tech University, expressed her fears about his triumph: "I agree with Huckabee politically, but I feel he is peaking too soon. He's showing too much progress too soon." After all, it is only January.

Last week in New Hampshire, voters participated in a semi-open primary. A semi-open primary allows voters to vote in any single primary, but they must declare in which primary they will vote before entering the voting booth. Clinton won the Democratic primary with 39% of the vote, tailed by Obama who captured 37% of the vote. Edwards managed to steal 17% of the vote and the other candidates fell in the single digits. John McCain came out on top in the Republican primary with 37% of the vote. Romney followed behind with 32% of the vote while Huckabee and Rudy Giuliani trailed behind with 11% and 9%, respectively.

CNN reported that Clinton had been trailing Obama by nine points in recent polls in New Hampshire. Her supporters denoted Clinton as the "comeback kid" when she won the Democratic primary. Romney held a twelve point lead in the polls, but lost to McCain in New Hampshire.

facebook

Over 100 high school students suspended for Facebook party photos

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

The Star Tribune, a metropolitan Minnesota newspaper, reported on January 9, 2008, that more than 100 students at Eden Prairie High School were being reprimanded or suspended from sports and extracurricular activities because of Facebook photos that pictured them drinking. The article goes on to note that "the Minnesota State High School League requires student athletes to sign a pledge that they will not drink alcoholic beverages."

The issue of invasion of privacy has been the primary defense of students called up by the administration—along with outright denial. This isn't unfamiliar water for some Centenary students, who have long had issues with Facebook pictures that attract reprimands from coaches. There was also a "controversy surrounding [Centenary] faculty and staff using the website Facebook.com" in the Fall 2005 semester, reported former Conglomerate staff writer Jennifer Atchison.

According to the Star Tribune's website, school officials from Eden Prairie have refused to comment or return phone calls, but several students have given comment. One girl, Natalie Friedman, was not punished for the photos found by administrators, but she said that ". . . It's not going to stop kids from drinking. We're just going to re-evaluate what we put out in public. We're going to be more cautious." She was also quoted as saying, "I think it's a huge invasion of privacy." This comes as little surprise, since the privacy issue with social networking sites has been prevalent almost since their inception.

In fact, a February 2006, article published by The Stanford Daily was centered on Facebook privacy. Julie Klein, the author of the piece, was quick to note that Facebook.com is now being used as a source of information by university admissions departments, potential employers, and school administrators seeking disciplinary action.

The article also quoted Barbara Nalazek, assistant director of the Legal Affairs Office at Ohio University, who said that, "It's [anything put on Facebook.com] out in the public domain. You can't really complain about getting caught."

Klein also referred to an incident in which Penn State University police used a Facebook group called "I Rushed the Field After the OSU Game (And Lived!)" to prosecute two students for trespassing.

What this all means is that Centenary students need to reevaluate the way they think about privacy, especially on social networking sites. While Facebook is (arguably) a good networking tool, the information there is completely public—and students are legally liable for it. What's important is making sure it doesn't get into the wrong hands.

Not that there's much backlash the average Centenary student needs to worry about, at this point. Kevin Wagner, Assistant Director of Student Life, said in a Conglomerate interview in early 2006 that "the only reason he would ever look at Facebook is if he were aware of a blatant policy violation communicated through the website." He also said, "I have better things to do besides play internet cop," a comforting statement for worried students.

And what about Centenary's Department of Public Safety? Zeke Aull, the head of the department, declined to answer a series of questions on whether or not he would use students' Facebook pages to prosecute or discipline students, only saying on January 11, 2008 that, ". . . Neither Joy [police captain and DPS second-in-command, Aull] or I have Facebook accounts and I'm not sure if any of my officers have them. I will say that during the interview process for new DPS employees I now inform the applicant that this could be included as part of the background check process." The lack of a clear response doesn't say much, so one can assume that it's best to err on the side of caution.

No matter what current policy is, it's probably a good idea for Facebook users to make sure their privacy settings are set so that only friends can see their pages, pictures, and information. That way, the chance is slim that someone snooping around can see personal information without a user's consent, and disciplinary action is far less likely.

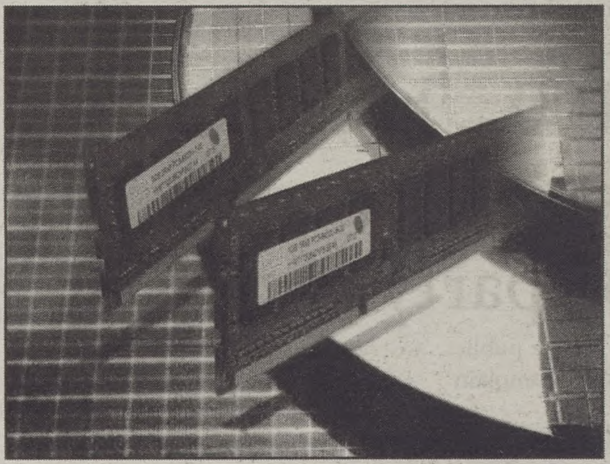
Technology in 2008 promises more innovation in software and gadgets

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

At long last, 2008 has arrived, and that means a slew of advances is once again on the horizon for the technology industry. Here, I detail some of the new gadgets and technological improvements that average Americans might soon see in their own lives.

Computer Horsepower

Computers this year should have far more muscle for the price than before, starting with their processors. These brains of the computer have seen raised performance with the advent of Intel's quad-core units, released in late 2006. They have traditionally been expensive, with a decent processor running $1,000 dollars (USD). Yet, in the current market, prices have fallen drastically, and the processors are beginning to catch on. Some lower-end quad-core PCs are already priced below $1,000 dollars (USD).



RAM should also see increased speed this year. The mid-2007 release of DDR3, which boasts higher speed and lower power consumption over DDR2, was very important for the computer industry. This new DDR3 standard, while currently only a useful option to over-clockers and computer enthusiasts, should catch on as it becomes cheaper and faster throughout the year.

Along with those two important upgrades, wireless Internet is also ready for its own new wave. The new standard, 802.11n, is a huge performance upgrade. It allows users to see, according to tests performed by Intel, real world speeds anywhere between 74Mbps (megabits per second) to 140Mbps, and it also can achieve about double the range of the current standard, 802.11G. This rivals and even beats some ethernet cards plugged into a wall jack. The 802.11n standard is currently in a draft stage (2.0), and its final release date is set for March 2009. However, manufacturers are already releasing technology based on Draft 2.0, which most of them say should be able to cope with upgrades to the final version of the standard. This year should see a rise in 802.11n, albeit a slow one, since most public venues aren't willing to shell out cash for a little-used, not-yet-perfected standard. It will probably remain a home system, for the time being.

Operating Systems

Microsoft has finally announced that Service Pack 3 for Windows XP will be released in the first half of this year. This comes after many delays, which ZDNet columnist Mary Jo Foley remarked were probably due to the fact that, in 2007, "[Microsoft's desire to get] Vista and Longhorn Server out the door [was] the No. 1 priority for the Windows team and SP updates have taken a back seat." Microsoft also plans to release Windows Vista's first service pack in the latter half of 2008.

Mac, generally secretive about their newest releases, has not announced whether or not it plans to bring a new operating system or major OS updates into the world this year.

On the Linux front, Ubuntu should be releasing its newest version, 8.04 LTS, in late April. This newest iteration will feature a visual overhaul, security enhancements, and increased stability. It will also have three years of guaranteed support and upgrades.

Toys and Gadgets

It's hard to tell what to expect on the cell phone front, but one thing is for sure: Apple galvanized the industry last year with the release of the iPhone. The end of 2007 saw a few more touchscreen phones released, and more are expected this year. Apple has not yet said what plans they have for the iPhone, but enthusiasts can watch out for the possible opening of the iPhone to other carriers and a new version.

Smart phones also made a jump last year with the release of Windows Mobile 6, so new advancements should be on the way regarding this latest version. The biggest news on the cell phone front, however, comes from Google. In November, 2007 it announced its "Android" mobile operating system, an open source platform that might just be making its way onto phones this year.

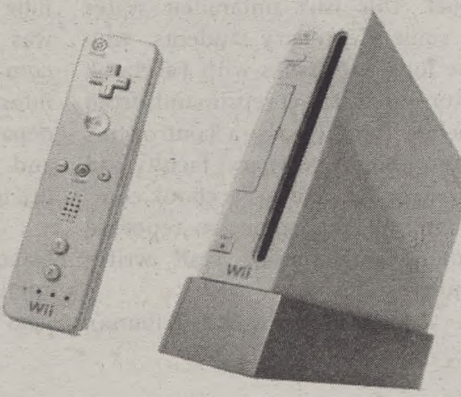
High definition TV should see a steady decline in prices for 2008, and cable and satellite carriers will continue the trend of adding as much HD programming as possible.

By the same token, the war for the HD media formats is now growing more heated. Blu-ray and HD-DVD are in a struggle to decide which will become the format used in home theaters. Unfortunately for those who want to see a victor emerge in this latest conflict so they can finally start upgrading their DVD collection to a high definition format, most consumers seem to be waiting it out, even as prices steadily decline on the players.

Finally, game systems are looking up, as the Playstation 3 falls in price and the Nintendo Wii comes back in stock. The future of the Xbox 360 seems uncertain after the releases Halo 3 and Bioshock have lost their novelty, especially with all the hardware problems gamers experienced last year. Noted MSNBC contributor Levi Buchanan, "Microsoft's position as market leader in this new generation of video games is, as [Microsoft VP Peter] Moore may say, without guarantee."

The handheld console market, led by the Sony PSP and Nintendo DS, has seen a constant trend of good luck, and the rumored development of a handheld console by Microsoft might just jumpstart the market again (I stress the word rumored development, because in a surprising reversal of roles, Microsoft is not releasing details about the project).

Overall, 2008 promises to be a busy year for corporations trying to make consumers spend their hard-earned dime on the latest innovations and improvements. With any luck, the decisions on what to buy will be easier than they were in 2007.



Congo Revisited: 1940s Centenary Ladies did not appreciate mustaches

Editor's note: Thanks to an unknown former Conglomerate editor from the 1940s, the current staff inherited old issues from that time period. We'd like to extend our thanks to whoever was thoughtful enough to drop these gems off at the College. This section highlights the most interesting changes from then to now and other various fascinating tidbits from old Congos.

Volume 42, Issue 26
April 17, 1948

Front page headlines:

"Miracle, Hardin to be Coed Officers"

"Yoncopin Due to Hit Campus in Late May"

"Breakdown of College Morals Fails to Arrive"

Featured article, page 1:

"Campus Poll Shows That Women Dislike Sideburns and Mustaches"

by Lady Maude Huckabay

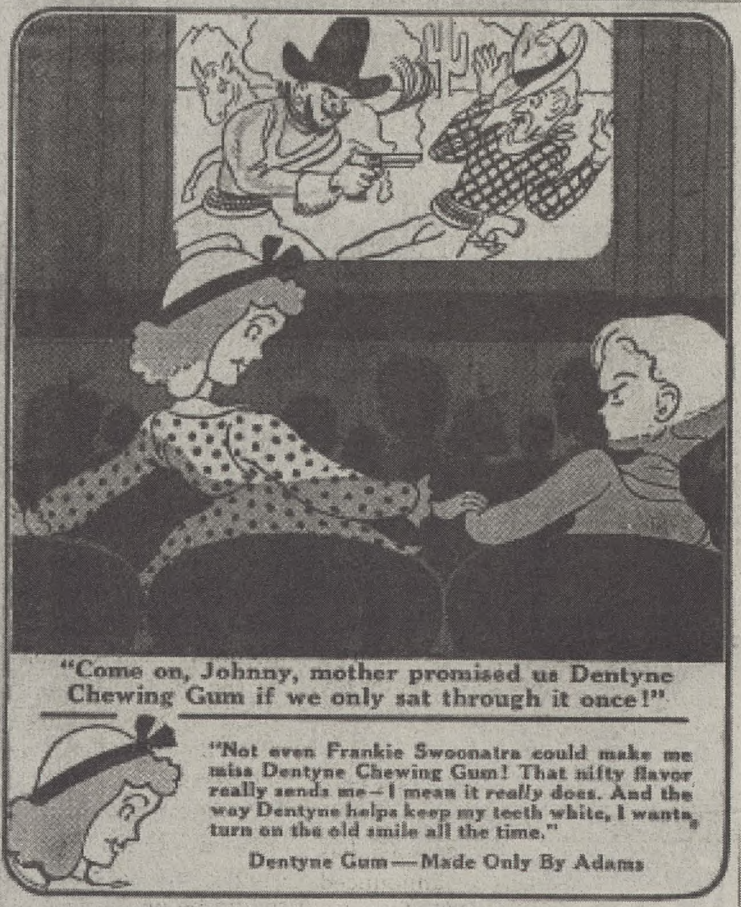
Attention Men!

Are you a big brute? Do you shirk your duty? Are you a sloppy, shabby, really a horrible mess?

The opportunity came for the coeds of Centenary to voice their opinion on just what they dislike about men. Well, naturally the girls grasp the chance to get a few words out about the men that they have stored up for years and now they feel better.

Are you one of these types of men?

Heading the list for the greatest dislike of the women are sideburns and mustaches. These are strictly taboo with the coeds of Centenary. Every girl likes a clean shaven man and definitely not the shoulder length, curley [sic] headed type.



"Come on, Johnny, mother promised us Dentyne Chewing Gum if we only sat through it once!"

"Not even Frankie Swoonatra could make me miss Dentyne Chewing Gum! That nifty flavor really sends me—I mean it *really* does. And the way Dentyne helps keep my teeth white, I wanta, turn on the old smile all the time."

Dentyne Gum—Made Only By Adams

Running neck and neck with the sideburns and mustaches is the boy who calls the last minute for a date. It's general opinion that this kind should never be given a date and should without further delay be strung up to the highest tree.

Along with the last minute callers is the guy who gives you the big snow job. The kind that try to make you think he has waited all his life for you. Oh boy, does he think he's the ladies man! The thoughtful, considerate, sincere man fills the bill better.

Particularly disliked are those sloppy, shabby, a horrible excuse for a man. Those who wear dress shirts without ties, plaid shirts and trousers mixed, dirty shoes, and then criticize the new look.

Are you the fellow who shirks your duty and fail [sic] to use your manners at the table and otherwise? The kind who forgets to open the car door for his date, or any other door for that matter? The girls do not appreciate your kind at all.

Following are some individual opinions:

Carolyn Yancey: "I think that the boy who calls the last minute for a date should be shot and never be given a date at all." Carolyn thinks the conciete [sic] of a man will never change, but give her the well-mannered, well-dressed boy any time.

Pat O'Donald: Cannot stand dirty hands and fingernails, sideburns and mustaches and last but not least the boy who wears a dress shirt and no tie. Otherwise they are all right.

Katherine Barnette: "I dislike immensely those boys who call for a date at the last minute and then turn right around and give you a big snow job." Katherine likes sincerity and good manners in a boy. Again the mustaches and sideburns come into the picture. "I can't stand them," she says.

Connie Evans: "Give me a boy with a pleasant smile and not the dead pan type. Oh, how I hate dirty shoes, sarcasm and mustaches."

Advice from Allison: On financial frustrations and time management

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

Disclaimer: The opinions and ideas expressed by this article do not in any way reflect those of Centenary College, the Conglomerate, or the writer herself. In fact, these ideas probably don't express any intelligently informed opinions anyway.

Dear Allison,

I am tired of eating in the cafeteria on campus but am on a tight budget. I want to eat a healthy diet but health food can be extremely expensive. How can I eat healthy without spending too much money?

Financially Frustrated

Dear Frustrated,

It is very difficult to eat a cheap and easy healthy meal in the world we live in. Many people also find that the cafeteria does not offer enough healthy options but find alternatives to this situation. Some alternatives include hitting up your local health food stores and finding cheaper staples to supplement your diet and learning how to make your own food in your room from food you can get in the cafeteria. These efforts can be rather time-consuming and difficult if one doesn't have a microwave or refrigerator. If this situation is pertinent to you, then the best way to find a healthy meal while saving a few pennies is to encourage your roommate to begin eating healthy as well and eat her food when she's not in the room.

Dear Allison,

I am working a part -time job, taking eighteen hours, and taking a GRE preparatory class this semester. It is my last semester before I graduate with my undergraduate degree and I want to be able to enjoy it. What are some time management techniques I can apply to my schedule to help me free up some time to spend doing what I want to do?

Sleepless Senior

Dear Sleepless,

It sounds like you have a pretty busy semester ahead of you. Managing your time will be really important this semester if you want to finish out your undergraduate career strong, do well on the GRE, and keep your part-time job. The best way for you to manage your time is to make a list of your priorities in the day and schedule a specific time that day to do each thing. If you are still having difficulty finding time to do the things you want to do, maybe you should drop certain activities that are time-consuming, such as sleeping.

Sex and the Centenary: Cohabitation after college (part dos)

Southern Elle
Staff Writer

Over Christmas break, I can't tell you how many "How to Better Your Sex Life" columns I read. There are hundreds. Thousands, even. Each of these authors acknowledged that couples who have been in a monogamous relationship for awhile (read: more than a year) often fall into boredom or repetitive habits concerning sex. If you have this grandiose notion that you will never fall into this category, think again. Really. I don't care how wonderful you and your partner are in bed; you are both still human. You are still a creature of repetitive nature. You will eventually find what works and more or less perpetuate it. You also will find that the "honeymoon" stage doesn't last forever. At some point, stress from school and work, arguments and relationship problems, and financial and emotional worries will actually affect your sex life. While we want to all believe that as twenty-somethings, we can get it on whenever and with whomever we choose... life unfortunately isn't that simple. You can be twenty-something and struggle with sex issues that Cosmo and Men's Health don't answer.

The problem I find with every "How to Better Your Sex Life" article is that every article gives three to four standard responses to the "Help me, I've been in a relationship too long and now I'm bored with our sex life" or "Help me, I've been in a relationship too long and now we aren't having sex." Standard answer #1: Your sex isn't interesting enough. Learn some new positions, have sex in weird places, get a mirror/camera, and/or try out some new toys. Standard answer #2: One of you must be cheating or else you'd both be screwing like bunnies. Standard answer #3: Please. People in their 20s don't have this problem. Shut up and just get it on. Standard answer #4: As you get older, your sex life will dwindle. Accept it.

So which category do you fall in? If you don't at all (which probably includes most people), then these columns create more questions than answers. These columns ignore what sex therapists have been telling the world for years: sexual desire is not an isolated event that happens to you. Emotions, psychological needs, and physical health affect your sex life! This means that if you have a really lousy day at work because some customer tried to throw a plate at your head and you worked eight hours then came home and read 400 pages for a Barker test and you haven't slept in three weeks and your boyfriend ate all the food in the fridge so you're starving... well, you might not feel like having sex. The good thing about this situation is that most of these are mundane problems that change on a daily basis. Tomorrow, you might have a great day because another customer left you a 400% tip, you made an A on your test, you took a nap, and your boyfriend took you out to Cantina Laredo to make up for eating through your fridge. While these problems might affect you today (or tomorrow, or the next day), most of them aren't deeply ingrained enough to make you want to go celibate for a whole semester – just a night or a few days.

Photo/graphic by Emily DeLatin.

So what if daily issues aren't the problem? Well, obviously, emotions can run a lot deeper, especially all the feelings you tie up in relationships. Like every other relationship problem, the issue often comes down to a lack of communication and/or a lack of compromise. For example: you feel like your partner blows you off all the time to go out with her friends. Because she's gone all the time, you're stuck taking care of pets and the house – and building some major resentment over the fact that she never takes time off to spend with you. Instead of telling her, you just sit around and stew. Your sex life starts to suffer, and you blame her for being gone all the time. See a problem? Your partner probably has little to no idea how she's pissed you off. She might even think that your sex life is dead because you're always acting so distant. Until the two of you sit down, talk, and come to some sort of a compromise, you'll never get anywhere. Maybe she could have a night or two a week where she just goes out with you – and you could get a life or a job and not harp on what she is doing the other five days of the week.

You could also split the chores so that you don't feel like you have to do the dirty work while she goes out. You might have to endure some arguing and frustration, but if both of you make an effort to meet somewhere in the middle – well, amazingly, when you're happy with your partner, your sex life will do a 180. Maybe then you could try some new toys?

Example two: Your boyfriend goes to class in the afternoon and works nights – so he goes to sleep around 2am and wakes up around 11am. You go to class in the mornings and attend work study, choir and Camerata practice, sorority meetings, and intramural games in the afternoons – so you go to sleep early to wake up early. Your schedules never seem to meet. You aren't having sex – but you also can't find time to eat a meal together, go to a movie, or do anything but crash in the same bed. You both are starting to feel like roommates instead of a couple... and it's time to make some serious schedule adjustments. That doesn't mean your boyfriend should quit his job or you should stop going to class. Maybe you can both make a serious effort to schedule a night off a week together – no work, no meetings, etc. Try to get your class work done before then. See a movie together. Cook dinner together. Rent a movie and watch it in bed. You'll be amazed to find that spending time together can actually lead to finding desire again. You might also want to consider breaking some patterns – like eating brunch together between classes or having afternoon sex. The less you feel like you are on automatic pilot, the more spontaneous and fun your sex life will be.

cont. on next page, page 9

Cohabitation, cont. from page 8

These examples are pretty simplistic. Your problems might include more than a basic problem/answer; you might spend all day worrying about money, overwhelmed by your schedule, angry about doing all the chores, and concerned about your grades – while you and your partner fight about who is paying what, when you will see each other, and who will clean the house. You'll have to break these problems down and try to answer them one-by-one. How can you better your financial situation as a couple? How can you split the chores? How can you work around both schedules? Like everything rewarding, it's hard and frustrating to move through this process, especially if tempers flare. Hopefully, you will find that your relationship and your sex life increase as your worries decrease.

Don't forget your physical health and needs, either. Keeping a balanced life and diet will better your sex life – and everything else in your body and mind. Exercising regularly increases your sex drive, as does cutting down on sugars and eating more fruits and veggies. Are you only sleeping four hours a day? Then you probably don't have enough energy to get off in the first place – or to function during school or work. Drinking heavily and doing drugs often can also affect your sex life – you won't have the energy to have sex, and drunk sex gets old fast. Having a sex drive doesn't just happen accidentally when you've been in a relationship for awhile – you have to really desire your partner. Don't get disheartened if your sex drive comes and goes – just like all relationship problems, sex takes some serious collaboration.

Study in Ireland!

The deadline to apply for the Irish-American Scholar program is approaching. Your completed application and all supporting materials are due in the Office of Intercultural Affairs no later than next Friday, January 25. For this program, you will pay Centenary tuition then room and board in Northern Ireland.

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Hit "Office" star and comedian Craig Robinson comes to Centenary

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

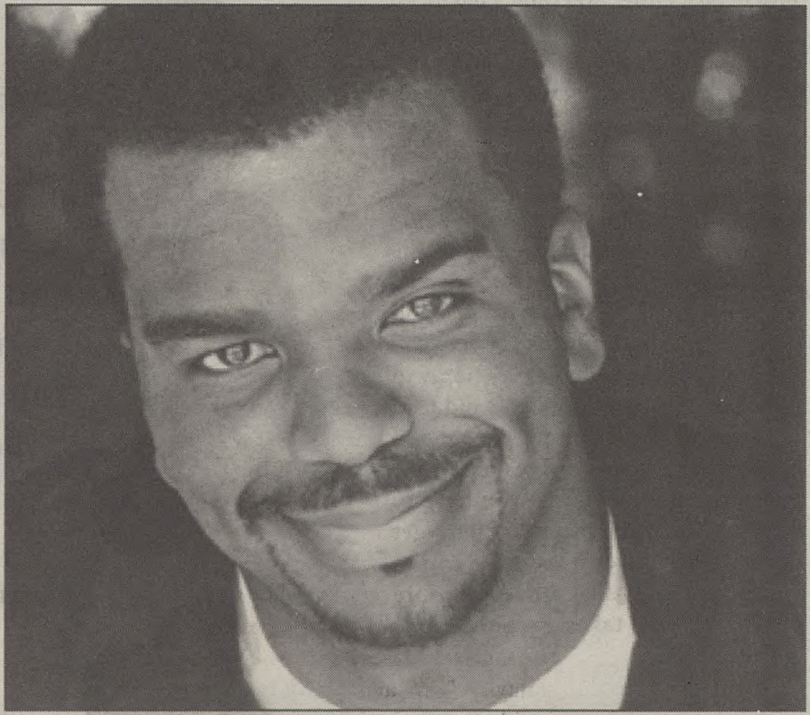
"You need to access your uncrazy side." This memorable line from Darryl Philbin on NBC's hit show "The Office" to girlfriend Kelly Kapoor is just one example of the type of comedic gold that actor Craig Robinson can so adeptly deliver. His droll character of Darryl on the "The Office" led some entertainment critics to brand him as the breakout star of a show dominated by popular actor Steve Carell – and he'll be at Centenary next Saturday.

Robinson will be at the Gold Dome on January 26th, thanks to the efforts of student organization Fighting Squirrels Productions.

Robinson's event presents a departure from the recently established norm of Fighting Squirrels, which was formed just a few years ago to provide entertainment for the Centenary and Shreveport communities. The organization started with Hal Sparks, similar to Robinson in his role as a comedian and actor, but since then has had annual spring concerts with names like Better Than Ezra and The Terms.

Robinson is not a replacement, however – just a bonus. The spring concert will still happen. "We wanted to do two events this year to give us more name recognition," said Senior Naana Frezel, President of Fighting Squirrels Productions. "We are a fairly new organization and we thought a comedian would be the easiest way to go and that it would be a successful event.

"We thought [Robinson] would be a fun guy to bring because he's so hilarious on 'The Office.' A lot of people seem to be a fan of the show – a lot of people enjoy watching it," said Frezel. "Because it is a recognizable show, we thought [Robinson] would grab the attention of the students and the surrounding Shreveport community."



He has played parts in various other popular comedy shows on television, like "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "Arrested Development," and "The Bernie Mac Show." Robinson has also made a name for himself on the silver screen with starring roles in "Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story" and "Daddy's Little Girls" as well as a fun role as an honest bouncer who denies a pregnant Katherine Heigl and her older sister entry into a club in "Knocked Up." Jenna Fischer, who stars as the adorable Pam Beesly on "The Office," appears with Robinson in "Walk Hard" as well.

Though Robinson himself and the great night of comedy he is sure to present are sufficiently adequate reasons to motivate students, Frezel stated another incentive for attendance - "The more tickets we sell, the more money we have for an awesome spring concert."

He will take the stage at the Gold Dome at 7 p.m. General admission tickets are available for $10 and can be purchased online at www.CentenaryTickets.com, from any Fighting Squirrels member, in the Student Life Office, or at the door. The student members are President Frezel, Vice President Liz Tomsula, Production Chair Mary Ham, Venue Chair Saul Castaneda, Hospitality Chair Tracy Gilbeau, Fundraising Chair Cory Shadd, and Tickets and Marketing Co-Chairs Mary Walter and Jessica Pfanner. Slices of Pieworks pizza will also be available at the event for just $1.

For more information, call 318-869-5117 or email fsp@centenary.edu.

A&E

Theatre Productions

Eastbank Theatre in Bossier City presents The Haunting of Hill House. From the novel by Shirley Jackson, F. Andrew Leslie adapts this psychological thriller to the stage. When something knocks on the doors, is it just your imagination, or is the house welcoming you as its guest? Careful, the house may be catching at you.

The Haunting of Hill House opens January 18th and runs through January 27th with two student performances on January 17th and 24th. Call the Eastbank Theatre Box Office at 318-741-8310 for ticket reservations.

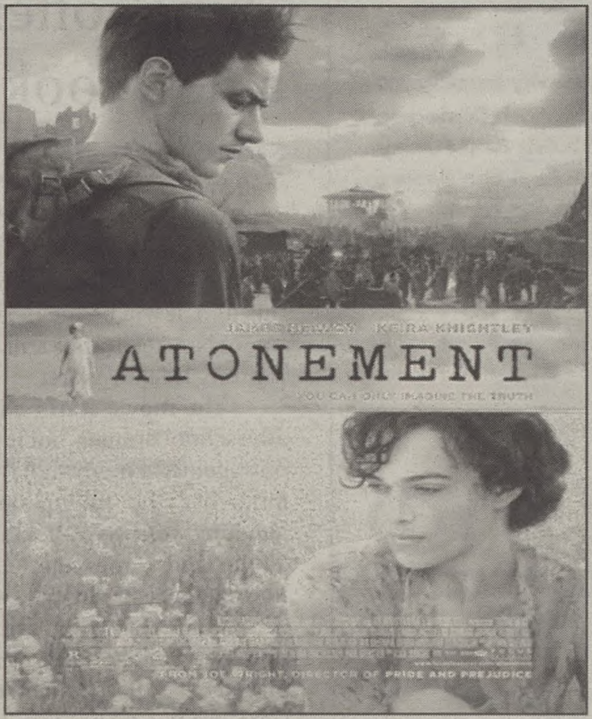
The Conglomerate reviews this film award season's heavy hitters

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

In an effort to review most of (if not all) the major awards contenders this year, I have to see every movie that is nominated for awards or winning awards at this point (my job really sucks, right?). The issue remains that there are films that do not reach our area until late in the game or after it has been played. However, one of the major awards contenders has finally arrived in Shreveport. That movie is "Atonement."

"Atonement" is about Briony Tallis, a 13-year-old girl who loves to write stories, plays, and anything else that catches her imagination. She lives in her massive mansion in England in the late 1930's. Her sister, Cecilia (Keira Knightley) is in love with the housekeeper's son Robbie (James McAvoy).

Everything seems fine around the house until, on the night of a visit from a wealthy businessman, Briony witnesses some intense sexual situations around the household. Being a young girl, she does not understand them and draws the wrong conclusions. Because of those conclusions and her later actions, the lives of everyone she loves take sudden and potentially tragic turns.


ATONEMENT
FROM JOE WRIGHT, DIRECTOR OF PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

The character of Briony is played by three different actresses throughout the movie. The first is Saoirse Ronan, who plays Briony at 13. This girl steals the movie from her older and more experienced co-stars. Her performance as young Briony makes you understand completely why she makes the mistakes that she does. When she is not onscreen, the movie is missing something because she is giving that great of a performance.

Romola Garai at age 18 and Vanessa Redgrave at age 70 or so play the older versions. It is during these periods that Briony begins to understand the gravity of her mistakes. And these actresses make you believe it. However, they still are not able to match Ronan's performance.

Anyway, the film is beautifully photographed. The cinematography is lush and very dense. This film will receive awards for the work done in this field, as will the music. With piano and typewriters coming together (it makes sense in the end of the film) to make the music, it is truly unique and chilling at the same time. However, that makes it all the more memorable.

Plus, there is a scene in the middle of the film involving the beaches of Dunkirk that is simply jaw dropping. It involves a single tracking shot moving with Robbie through the beach as we see the horrors taking place there. Like the scenes from "Children of Men" last year, this scene will be discussed and analyzed for a long time to come.

"Atonement" is a well-acted, well-written, well-directed wonder of a film. While it is not the best film I have seen in the past year, it is certainly one of the best and certainly worth the time you would spend watching it.

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

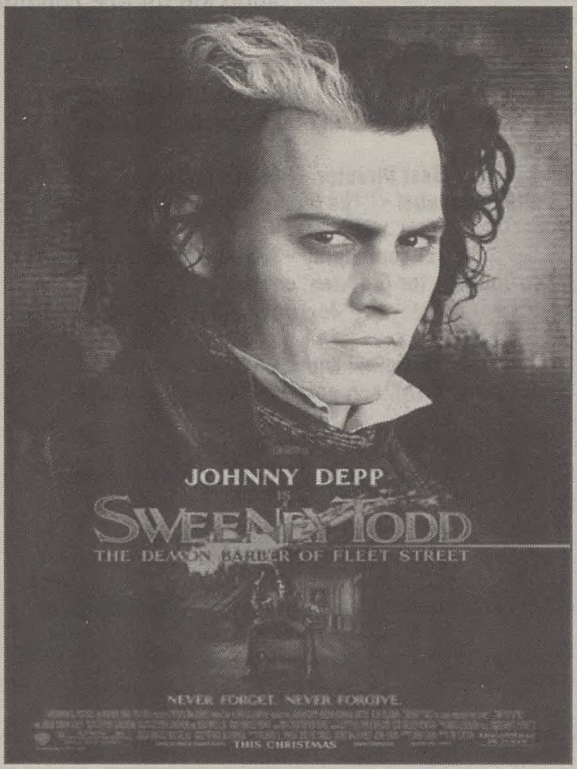
Let me begin this review by saying that I am not a fan of musicals as a film genre, especially those that are based on Broadway productions. This is mostly because I think that there is something lost in the translation from stage to screen. I don't really know what it is, but there is definitely something missing from those adaptations.

That said, I have finally found a musical that works wonderfully as a film. The film: "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street."

The film is about a man named Benjamin Barker (Johnny Depp), a barber from London who was wrongfully accused of a crime by a corrupt judge (Alan Rickman) because the judge wanted Barker's wife for himself. Fifteen years later, Barker is released from jail. He changes his name to Sweeney Todd and resumes his job as a barber while preparing to kill the judge and anyone who will get in his way by slitting their throats with his razorblades.

Also joining him is Mrs. Lovett (Helena Bonham-Carter), a woman who owns a pie shop where the food is a little less than savory. She helps him hide the bodies of his victims in ways that can only be described as cannibalistic.

With this being a musical, the best place to start would be with the music and singing. While I have never seen the Broadway production of "Sweeney Todd," I do know that some songs have been cut to make the film more manageable onscreen, so there are some losses on that front. That said, I love the music in the film and I now own the soundtrack because the music is so amazing. Every actor sings their parts really well, though Helena Bonham-Carter is not exactly the best singer in the world.


JOHNNY DEPP
SWEENEY TODD
THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET
NEVER FORGET. NEVER FORGIVE.
THIS CHRISTMAS

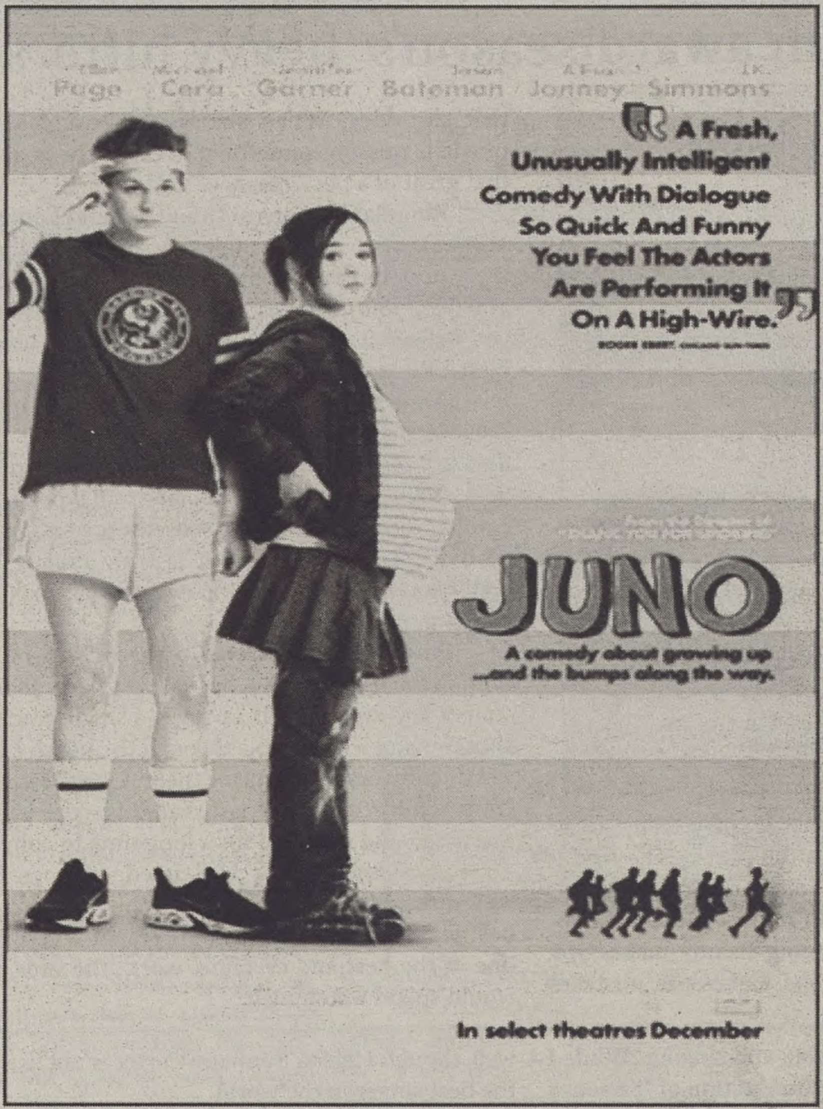
The acting is very well done, which is partly why the singing is good. These actors are putting everything they have into the film and it shows.

Johnny Depp is truly at the top of his game in this film (which is really saying something). He makes Sweeney a very scary, though sympathetic character. Yet he is not afraid to make you wonder if you should feel any sympathy for this character by the way he handles the scenes.

Plus, this movie is directed by Tim Burton, so it should go without saying that everything is dark, moody, and a little over the top. However, this works perfectly with the material. The London in the film is a very dreary place. Everything is in monotone gray and black colors, except for the blood.

Speaking of the blood, there is plenty of it. Every kill has more blood than Tarantino at his most brutal. Plus, people are chopped up and put into meat pies, so the film is definitely not for those with weak constitutions.

This movie is as good as musicals get in my opinion. I loved every second of it. Enough that I am seriously considering recanting my vote for "American Gangster" as my favorite film from last year. This movie is amazing and worth the time to see on the big screen, especially if you love a musical...or just a damn good movie in general.


Page Cera Garner Bateman Janney Simmons
A Fresh, Unusually Intelligent Comedy With Dialogue So Quick And Funny You Feel The Actors Are Performing It On A High-Wire.
JUNO
A comedy about growing up ...and the bumps along the way.
In select theatres December

Juno? No, it's Morgan Freeman: "Juno" offers multiple laughs and a new look at teen pregnancy

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

Pregnancy and high school: they don't go together now, but after this film, it will be the next cool thing to do. Not really, but still, this movie is pretty freakin' sweet.

The movie starts out like most afterschool dramas, but it intertwines outrageous comedy (not the "Jackass" kind, but the rolling on the floor laughing your ass off kind) with an adult-sized message: sometimes normal just isn't the best way to go.

Juno, played by Critic's Choice nominee Ellen Page, and Paulie, played by "Superbad" all-star Michael Cera, are two teenagers who are great friends that have sex this one time, end up pregnant, and then, at the very last minute, fall in love. Their priorities are a bit out of order, but that's just their style.

Page and Cera have such great chemistry on the screen that it's impossible for any audience not to believe they are goofy in love, the kind of grown-up love of which some adults can only dream. Faced with the decision between abortion, adoption, and keeping the baby, the young Juno decides to put the baby up for adoption on one condition: she gets to pick the lucky couple.

In her search to find the perfect couple to raise her unborn child, she finds Mark and Vanessa Loring, a power couple that has been trying desperately, and with no avail, to get pregnant. As Juno learns more about the couple, she realizes the happiness that they exude is all a ruse. Under it all, they are both very unhappy in their marriage. Drama ensues.

As with all drama-comedies, there is always a fight about balance: is it too dramatic? Is it too comedic? This film combines the two into a perfect combination, showing the dramatic points of the film in such a way that any one person would never know they were actually watching what the critics call a cult comedy.

This is the Star Wars to indie film followers. This is the Star Trek to the Trekkies. It's the Mecca of all Mecca's. Juno's character is so elaborate and hilarious, she makes you feel like she could be your best friend; the friend that calls you just to tell you some hilarious phrase that they just thought up.

This film will keep you laughing in the aisles or on your couch and, hopefully, teach you that normality isn't always the best route to take in life.

2008 GOLDEN GLOBE WINNERS

Best Motion Picture - Drama
"Atonement"

Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture - Drama
Julie Christie in "Away From Her"

Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama
Daniel Day-Lewis in "There Will Be Blood"

Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy
"Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street"

Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy
Marion Cotillard in "La Vie En Rose"

Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy
Johnny Depp in "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street"

Best Performance by an Actress In A Supporting Role in a Motion Picture
Cate Blanchett in "I'm Not There"

Best Performance by an Actor In A Supporting Role in a Motion Picture
Javier Bardem in "No Country for Old Men"

Best Animated Feature Film
"Ratatouille"

Best Foreign Language Film
"The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" (France)

Best Director - Motion Picture
Julian Schnabel - "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly"

Best Screenplay - Motion Picture
"No Country for Old Men," written by Ethan Coen and Joel Coen

Best Original Score - Motion Picture
"Atonement," composed by Dario Marianelli

Best Original Song - Motion Picture
"Guaranteed" - Into The Wild by Eddie Vedder

Best Television Series - Drama
"Mad Men" on AMC

Best Performance by an Actress In A Television Series - Drama
Glenn Close in "Damages"

Best Performance by an Actor In A Television Series - Drama
Jon Hamm in "Mad Men"

Best Television Series - Musical Or Comedy
"Extras" on HBO

Best Performance by an Actress In A Television Series - Musical Or Comedy
Tina Fey in "30 Rock"

Best Performance by an Actor In A Television Series - Musical Or Comedy
David Duchovny in "Californication"

Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in a Series, Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television
Samantha Morton in "Longford"

Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Series, Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television
Jeremy Piven in "Entourage"

"Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem" is an abysmal addition to the franchise

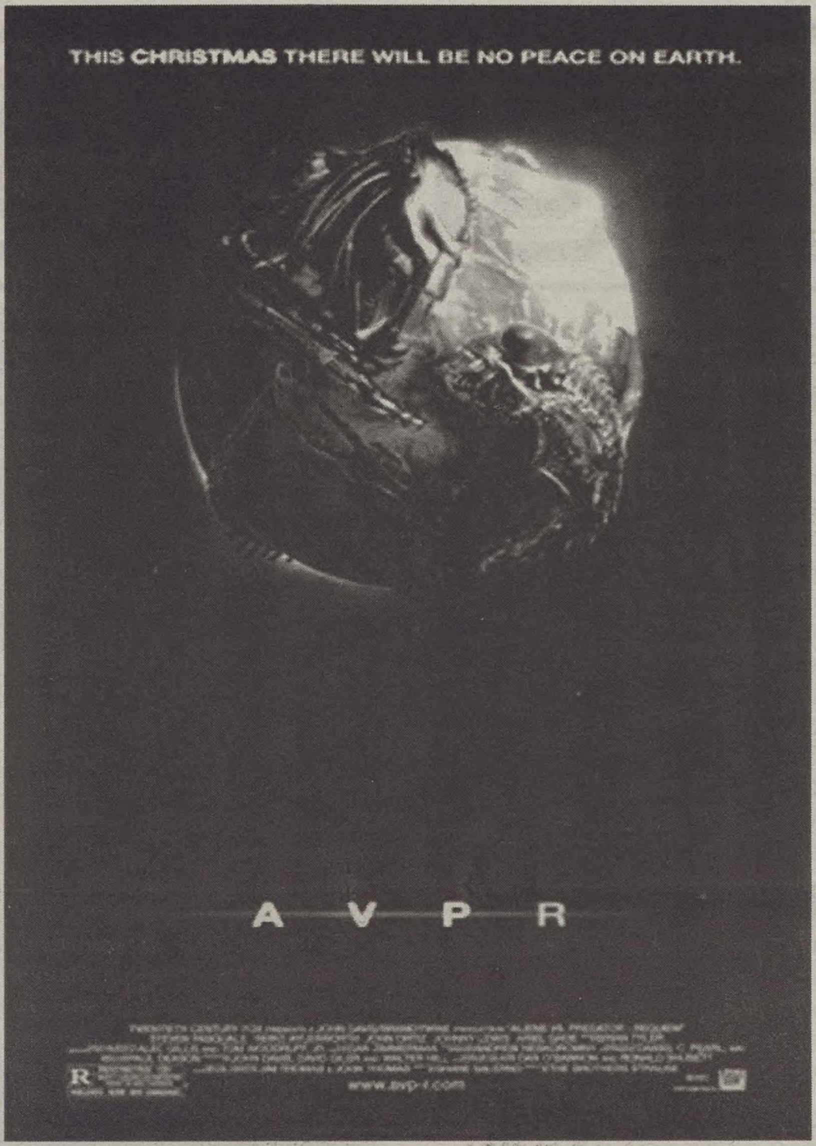
Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

I love the "Alien" and "Predator" franchises. Both series contain some of the best sci-fi/action/horror movies ever. However, since the franchises have been slapped together, the results have been mixed at best and terrible at worst. The new entry into the series, "Alien vs. Predator: Requiem," easily falls into the terrible category.

Essentially, the movie is about Aliens and Predators fighting each other, with some cannon fodder humans in the way. This all also takes place in a small Colorado town. After spending a good 30 minutes giving the barest of characterizations to the expendable residents of the town, the Aliens and Predators start killing and fighting each other.

There is no real plot to this movie. Just a bunch of random situations with piss-poor logic and even less excitement. I have no problems with stupid movies, as long as they are entertaining, but this movie is not even amusing. Even the worst movies in either franchise were entertaining, if not very good at all.

The human characters are there only to be killed by the aliens. I did not care for any of them and there is not a single recognizable face among the bunch. None of them can act. They are not interesting in any way. Any time the humans were on the screen, I was hoping and praying that the Aliens or the Predators would return soon so we could back to the real reason I came to see the movie.


THIS CHRISTMAS THERE WILL BE NO PEACE ON EARTH.
A V P R
R
www.avp-r.com

Which brings me to my main complaint with the movie: I at least expected to see Aliens and Predators fighting each other during the movie. After all, the movie is titled "Aliens vs. Predator." However, I was wrong. There was only one fight between the Aliens and the single Predator in the entire movie, and it occurred at the end, when the movie had lost all hope of keeping my attention.

Instead of fighting, there is a single Predator that is only there to destroy evidence of the Aliens being on the planet instead of, I don't know, killing the freakin' Aliens.

The only single redeeming factor in the movie is that the special effects were done really well. Then again, that was to be expected because the directors' only previous moviemaking experience came from doing the special effects in other better movies like "300." It is apparent that these two guys know nothing about making a movie entertaining or even remotely interesting.

Plus, there is a mean streak in this movie that I cannot ignore. I am all for having a brutal violent horror/action movie, but when it comes to killing kids, pregnant women, or infants, I have to draw the line. In several scenes, for no real reason other than to be excessively violent and mean, this happens. These scenes were not only disturbing, but they were simply unnecessary.

Basically, this movie sucked. It wasn't as bad as "The Seeker" but it was by far one of the worst movies of last year. Now I need to go watch "Alien," "Aliens," or "Predator," so I can get the horrible memories of this piece of crap out of my mind.

CD review: Alicia Keys's "As I Am" is mediocre

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Alicia Keys doesn't deliver the same quality music as her previous albums with her new CD, "As I Am." With her previous releases, one listen was all it took to fall in love with the album. "As I Am" requires you to listen to it over and over in order to like it, a first for an Alicia Keys album. After several listens, the good aspects outweigh the bad, but unfortunately it's just the released singles that carry "As I Am."

"No One" and "Like You'll Never See Me Again" are the best songs on the album. I doubt Alicia Keys would have sold half of what she did had her other singles been selected. They are the fourth and fifth songs on the album, respectively. They are both sweet and enhance the overall theme of "As I Am:" love.

Many of the songs on "As I Am" deal with love, a typical subject on an Alicia Keys' album. John Mayer makes the only guest appearance on "Lesson Learned," a song about getting past a heartbreak.

"Teenage Love Affair" is a sweet song that takes you back to first loves and the beat of the song is wonderful, especially when Keys sings, "Nothing really matters/I don't really care." Save for the released singles, this is the best song on the album.

"As I Am" has a good flow. There is a good balance of up-tempo and slow songs. The lyrics on all of the songs are wonderful. Unfortunately, the music and lyrics don't always work as a cohesive unit making a great song.

Alicia Keys has an incredible voice and it's displayed best when she belts out "Prelude to a Kiss." Female empowerment is heard in "Superwoman" and it has a chant of "Yes I am!" Overall, I recommend this CD to those who want to hear an album about love. It may take a few listens to fully get into the album, but once you start to like it, the positive feelings grow.

SPORTS

Tigers beat Ohio State for coveted BCS championship

John Cefalu
Staff Writer

"How 'bout dem Tigers?" was a question I heard several times while walking around in New Orleans the final day before classes started. It's a rhetorical question that anybody might ask you if you're wearing even the slightest hint of purple and gold. Even the warning flags on the beach of Miami were waving purple and gold.

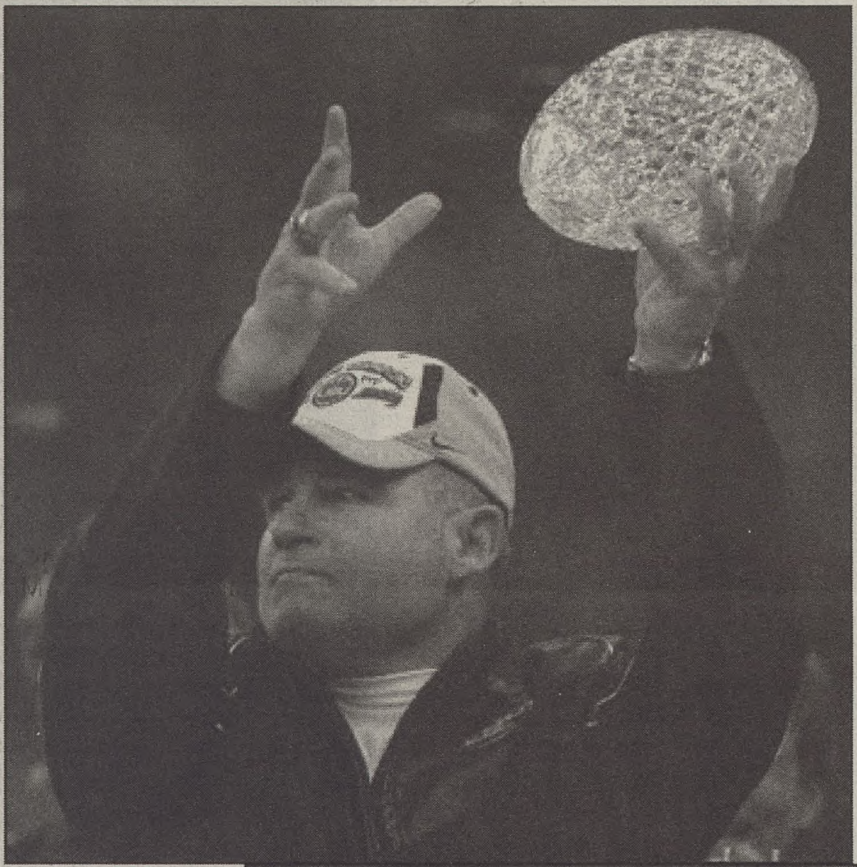
Let's take a further look to get to the bottom of this. LSU began its season abusing the bulldogs of Mississippi State, running over Virginia Tech, and barely edging past Florida in Death Valley for one of the greatest games of the year in college football. Then there was a heartbreaking loss in over time to Kensucky, I meant Kentucky, then a few more of those close nail-biters versus Auburn and Alabama, and then another heartbreaking, triple overtime loss to unranked Arkansas. What seemed like a broken dream was soon saved by divine intervention as LSU defeated Tennessee in the SEC championship game. Number 2 West Virginia lost to unranked Pittsburg the same night that number 1 Missouri lost to Oklahoma, putting LSU in the BCS championship for the second time in 5 years. Then the preparations began. The debate began with SEC speed-rolling over the Big Ten running power. Like Early Doucet said in an interview, "we're just faster than they are."

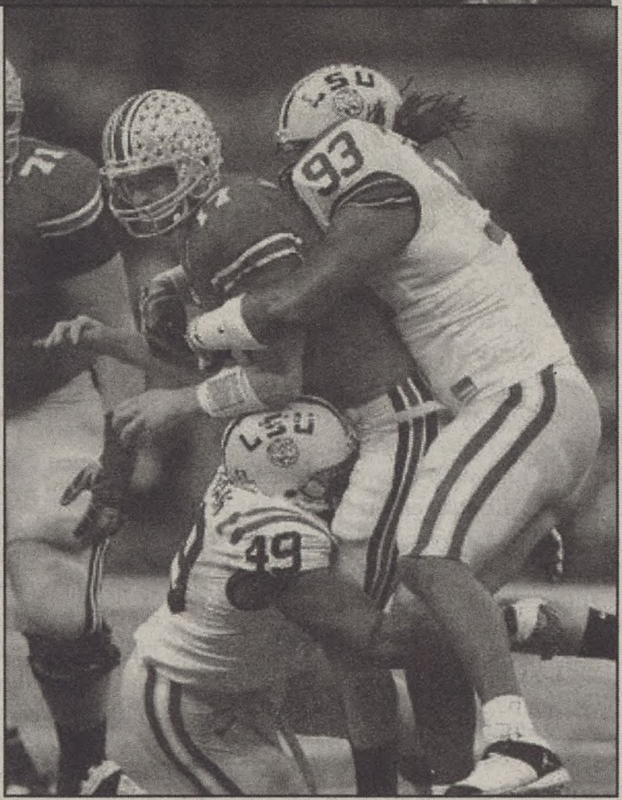
The speed proved to be false as Ohio State prepared to take it on after suffering an embarrassing loss to Florida, another SEC team, the previous year. The game was set for 8 P.M. Eastern Time. The world watched as three of the four commentators predicted the Buckeyes to win, including Lee Corso's choice by wearing the mascot. Ohio State began their revenge upon LSU. The score was 10-0 after Ohio State practically ran over LSU in the first quarter. Tiger fans fad a sick feeling in their stomachs as Ohio State sacked Matt Flynn for another three and out for LSU. Then, however, on a safety blitz, Ohio State quarterback Todd Boeckman threw his first interception of the game, giving LSU another chance. LSU scored 24 unanswered points in the second quarter, giving them a big lead. The game ended with LSU still on top by two touchdowns, 38-24. And while Miles got to hoist the $30,000 crystal prize, surely many fans around the country were wondering if someone else was equally worthy.

Southern California, Georgia, West Virginia, Kansas and Missouri all put on impressive shows in bowl games, and will be among the favorites in 2008.

Certainly there will be some argument as to who's the best team. Still, "I think the national champion has been crowned tonight," Miles said. I have to give great credit to some divine intervention that allows us to be in this position.

Although the game proved no SEC speed, the win did prove that LSU came out to play football just as much, if not greater, as Ohio State did. LSU's Flynn threw four touchdown passes with only one interception late in the third quarter. The big playmaker, though, was tight end Richard Dickson, who caught two of the four touchdown passes during the game. LSU became the first team to win two BCS national championships since the beginning of the BCS system and Les Miles got his third 11 win season of his career with LSU. Congratulations on a well-deserved win!





Top: Les Miles receives BCS trophy. Photo provided by Times Picayune.

Right: Kirston Pittman and Tyuson Jackson sack Ohio State quarterback Todd Boeckman in the third quarter. Photo provided by Times Picayune.

The Conglomerate presents: The life of a student athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

It's more than a small town girl can ask for—the idea of escaping the factory mills and community center all to find herself amongst millions in the city known for its chaos. Chaos in a good way, though.

I'm back from my Christmas break where I spent a week or so in New York City away from the small town life experiencing people, walking, good food, and Broadway. Not too bad—as that one week opened my eyes to many new and exciting escapades.

I'll start from the beginning, because every detail deserves its right in this reminiscence of my holidays. It all began with a little plane ride at 6 a.m. My mom and I survived security and the airport madness and were off to New York City to celebrate the New Year. Leaving the mild, humid temperatures behind, we found ourselves looking for transportation to The Roosevelt Hotel in temperatures below 40.

Friday, December 28, 2007—We made it to Times Square and that's all I have to say. We saw people, people, and few lighted buildings and billboards, and more people. The stage for the New Year celebration was set up and taxis maneuvered in and out of the packs of wild animals—or people. We walked the streets, three blocks in fact to the most indescribable place of celebration. I had the first of my many tastes of New York pizza. A few photo snaps and a walk down Diamond Avenue all took place on my first day, though nothing compares to the many things I learned in such a short time.

Saturday, December 29—Sunday, December 30, 2007—was the actual beginning of our exciting week escape. A bit of shopping; okay, a lot of shopping took place. Then to the underground where Grand Central Station became my morning view outside my window. The fun took place all underground where buying Metro Cards and reading maps became a favorite of mine. We headed south to the World Trade Center feeling a bit uneasy though the remembrance became much more apparent after seeing all the memorabilia from that tragic day.

The next day, we paid a visit to Central Park. I got my workout in for the day walking 2-3 miles along the trails sighting the beautiful skyline, ice skating at Wollman Park, carriage rides, and John Lennon's memorial at Strawberry Fields. A walk down 5th Avenue was for sure an eye opener. You only see these places in movies: Tiffany & Co, FAO Schwartz, The Plaza Hotel, Trump Tower, and Macy's. Later, we had the privilege of seeing "The Color Purple" on Broadway starring American Idol Fantasia. Amazing—that's all I have to say.

Monday, December 31—Thursday January 3, 2007: Over the next several days, I had the chance to experience NBC and Madison Square Garden. If you are a Knicks fan or a NY Rangers Hockey fan, be jealous, because I saw inside their locker rooms. I also visited the Museum of Modern Art, Madame Tussaud's wax museum, the Today Show, the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty and Battery Park, Washington Square Park, NYU, and one more Broadway show—"Grease," and it was so entertaining, a must see.

My trip didn't go without being immersed amongst the 1.2 millions visitors lined up in Times Square, 20 blocks back from the tiny, colored ball. I had my view from about 10 blocks away in the freezing cold…an interesting night to say the least.

A few rules and tips for enjoying The Big Apple from the perspective of a small town girl:

Rule #1: If taking tourist pictures, move to the side of the sidewalk or you will be mauled over by the people. They don't stop or care why you are there.

Rule #2: Have an itinerary at all times, so you aren't in some strange place (Diamond Avenue) asking yourself, "Where am I?"

Rule #3: Have small change in hand for important things like tips, subways, and street venders.

Rule #4: Walk fast or better yet, sprint across each street or taxis, limos, and charter buses will run you over.

Rule #5: Become familiar with the strange place known as Starbucks because there are literally three to four on every street.

Rule #6: Wear comfortable shoes to walk in or else.

Rule #7: Make sure you understand the subway system BEFORE you hop on the train. Read a map, but it is also okay to ask the locals.

Rule #8: You better love pizza and bakeries because you won't walk the streets with one.

Rule #9: Brush up on your foreign languages if you want to listen in on people's conversations—New York City is the m attracts people from all over the world, especially over the holidays.

Rule #10: Check your receipts. Cashiers will charge you too much. Oh, and no tax on any clothing items all over the city.

Rule #11: Just walk, you will get there a lot quicker than a taxi on those busy streets.

Rule #12: Camp out all night and all day if you want a glimpse of the New Year's Ball.

Rule #13: Expect to wait in lines everywhere; it's an amusement park all over the city.

Rule #14: Try and bargain with street vendors.

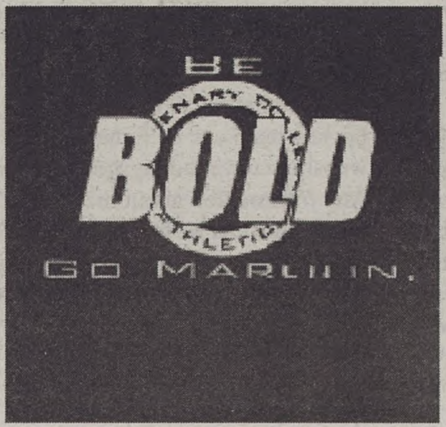
Rule #15: Take lots and lots of photos—its will be worth every minute.

As you can see, the holidays for me were fun and filled with glamour. But as I made it back to my hometown and now back at school, I have to admit the city, though it was amazing, is so far from the small town atmosphere I have been accustomed too. Just remember, leaving your small town to experience life outside of mills and community centers will make you appreciate the small things and begin to accept and respect all types of people. It was by far the most uplifting trip of my life. So pack your bags, schedule a trip, and enjoy. Everyone must experience something worthwhile at least once in his or her life.

And now…back at school. Softball practice has begun and we are off and running hard. Our season kicks off in just a few weeks and only positive is in sight.

BE BOLD
GO MAROON

Buy a shirt to support all of Centenary Athletics!
The picture here is what the back looks like.
$10.00 for sizes up to XL, add another dollar per X!
Place order this week by sending a Facebook message to Jennifer Majchrowicz, or an email to jmajchro@centenary.edu.
Money will be due to me or Ross Gilbert by Wednesday the 23rd or can be put in box 439!
Buy one today!



Super Bowl update: Two favorites eliminated from playoffs

Kat Michiels
Subjective Sports Observer

Last Saturday night, the New England Patriots pulled off a 30-21 win against the Jacksonville Jaguars in Foxborough, Massachusetts, which is what most critics expected to happen. The Patriots are now undefeated 17-0, and if they win two more games, they will not only claim the Super Bowl Championship – they will also be a completely undefeated regular and post-season team.

Though the critics knew what they were saying when it came to New England, many of them were shocked by last Sunday's game performances. The Pats may have delivered on Saturday, but Sunday proved one thing: ignore the critics and analysts during playoff seasons, because the Wild Cards come to play.

Last Sunday, the Indianapolis Colts faced off against the San Diego Chargers for a chance to play in the American Football Conference (AFC) Championship. San Diego, who killed the Tennessee Titans in the Wild Card Playoffs, delivered much the same fate to Indianapolis. The Colts were the favorite to play against the Patriots for the AFC championship, but Peyton Manning's team just didn't deliver.

It was a close game, though. The leading team changed seven times throughout the game, and with two minutes left in the game, the Colts had the ball and a chance to score. The Chargers defense remained tough, and the defending Super Bowl Champion Colts were eliminated from the playoffs with a final score of 28-24.

If the sports fans were shocked by that loss, it was nothing compared to what was happening in the National Football Conference (NFC). The Dallas Cowboys, who were the first ranked seed in the NFC, earning them a first round bye and home field advantage, took on the New York Giants. The Giants, who also happened to kill in the Wild Card Playoffs, defeated Tampa Bay 24-14 to advance to the second round against the Cowboys.

The Giants and Cowboys also played a close game. Tied at halftime, both teams came back with extremely strong defensive sides. The Cowboys succeeded in kicking a field goal for a three-point lead in the third quarter, and the entire game came down the fourth quarter. After Giants quarterback Eli Manning threw a touchdown, the Cowboys offense got tough, but the Giants defense got tougher. The Cowboys, a team once known for its wins in the last two minutes of the game, did not succeed. With 9 seconds left to play in the game, Dallas quarterback Tony Romo threw an interception right into the end zone, which would have won the game, had a Dallas member caught the ball (and Jessica Simpson wasn't even there this time). Instead, it flew right into the hands of a Giant, who immediately started jumping and flailing in victory. The Cowboys left the field dejected, and owner Jerry Jones stood on the sidelines, looked very perturbed.

With that, two highly anticipated teams were eliminated from the playoffs, and two Wild Cards have stepped up to the 50-yard line, as it were, to prove their stuff.

All bets are off and records don't matter this Sunday, as the 17-0 Patriots face off against the Chargers, who have made it clear that they plan to win at 2:00 for the AFC championship. At 5:30, the Green Bay Packers will play the Giants for the NFC Championship and a trip to Super Bowl XLII, which will be aired on February 3, 2008 from Phoenix, Arizona.

Mudbugs on a home game winning streak plus CHL All-Star game

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

The Mudbugs have been on what is said to be the record for the team in home game winning streaks. The Bugs won their 15th consecutive home game on January 8th against the Youngstown SteelHounds, crushing the Hounds 5-2.

It wasn't much of an exciting game, in regards to fights and penalties, making the fans think that the Bugs have lost their steam. One treat for the fans was a rare but exciting penalty shot by Mudbugs Left Wing Kevin Cooper, who is a tiny, but very fast man with a big punch. His score on the penalty shot brought the team even further ahead of the Hounds.

With Ken Carroll as goalie, blocking all but two of the almost 40 shots the Hounds attempted, the Mudbugs fought hard. This win was not only the 15th consecutive home game win, but also the 11th straight victory for the Bugs. Currently, on the road, the Bugs are keeping up with their victory streak with two more games tucked under their belts as wins.

An important recent event for the Central Hockey League and a few Mudbugs team members was the CHL All-Star Game. It was set for Wednesday, January 16th in Broomfield, Colorado. This year's hosts was the Rocky Mountain Rage and face-off was scheduled for 7:05 PM Mountain Standard Time.

All information about the Mudbugs hockey team can be found on their website www.mudbugshockey.com. Any information about the CHL All-Star Game can be found on the CHL's website at www.centralhockeyleague.com. The next Mudbugs home game is on Saturday, January 26th. at 7:05 PM at the CenturyTel Center.

Jarboe Jabber: A Cowboy rant 'cause we all deserve it

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

I turned the speakerphone on as we huddled in the corner of a small Methodist church in

Derrider, Louisiana. Twenty-something guys of the Centenary College Choir were sweating over the last play to be announced over Ross Gilbert's phone. The swimmers over at Ross's house were loud, so the confusion on the line was making the room tense with anxiety. Down after down, Ross would repeat the same phrase over the chatter, "Incompletion."

What was happening to America's Team? As the fourth and final attempt for the Cowboys occurred, both sides of the phone were quiet. All of a sudden, a commotion of sound erupted through my phone's speaker. "Interception. Ball game."

Those three words were all he had to say. I closed the phone quickly, dropping it carelessly on the floor in an attempt to let out my fury on a poor defenseless inanimate object that I hoped would break into tiny pieces–thank God it didn't. We still had to perform a concert, and with all the spirit taken out of many of our singers we had no desire to continue with the night's scheduled activities.

The tears have lessened since the night. Rumors have it that Quinn Larwood recently awoke from his coma, Gabe Silvas returned from the hospital after cardiac arrest, and Trae Milam was able to regain strength in his eyes after blindness took over. Painfully, though, I'm sad to announce that James King will not be coming home anytime soon from the state penitentiary after tripping a pack of older women at the super-market and slaughtering a dozen chickens screaming, "Romo, Romo! I will hunt your family till the death!"

Overall, the campus has done a great job recovering from loss. As for now, four teams remain in the hope of becoming Super Bowl champions. America's Team shall rise again! Here's to next season.

Return of the Geordie Messiah heralds the dawn of a new era in soccer

Jonathan Hedley
Contributing Writer

If you've never been particularly interested in English soccer (which will be referred to from here on in as football), now is the time to change your mind. If you've always held a fleeting interest, but never the strong desire to actually watch a game, now is the time to take the plunge. If you've ever wondered just what it is that makes millions of people all over the world so absurdly passionate about this sport, you now have the opportunity to find out. At 4pm GMT (10am here in Louisiana) on Wednesday, January 16th, 2008 the return of the Messiah was officially announced on the club website of Newcastle United. The Geordie Messiah, that is.

What is he blithering on about this week? I hear you grimacing. I know my pitiful attempts to educate and enlighten the American nation with the joys of football every week fall on deaf ears (or blind eyes), and that any of you who do read this column probably read it out of sympathy because you know me, and that you're so bored by the second paragraph that your brain is beginning to dribble out of your ears.

Well, I'm sorry. But this is really, really important. Honestly. Big things are afoot in the world of the English Premier League – more precisely in Newcastle, otherwise known as The People's Breakaway Republic of Geordieland.

To explain, Geordies (pronounced "Jordies") are people from Newcastle. Newcastle is the northernmost city in England, a bit of a backwater you might say. It's famous for the beer and, well, just the beer actually. It's the only town for miles around and, unlike most European cities, it only has one football club to represent it. As such, this club, Newcastle Utd, has arguably the most voluminous, voracious and yes, downright vicious support in the country. To be brutally honest, the people of Newcastle have little else to dream about. The team carries their hopes and defines their fantasies; it dictates the mood of the whole city; it is the source of names for newborn kids and dogs generation after generation; it even affects the weather there.

Are you sitting comfortably?

This week's story begins back in the early '90s, when former player Kevin Keegan was appointed manager of a Newcastle Utd in the Second Division, a dilapidated team of apathetic players facing relegation and possibly even bankruptcy. Such was the man's charisma and talent for motivation that the team was not only saved from relegation but emerged the following season to devour the league and win promotion as champions. The team was catapulted into a golden age as one of the most devastating forces in world football and the city rose from post-industrial recession into a state of collective euphoria. But what made it all so special was the philosophy of football that was instilled by the Geordie Messiah. Cavalier football it was called. Newcastle Utd were dubbed The Entertainers, and became the nation's favourite team to watch.

Photo courtesy of bbc.co.uk

There was no such thing as soaking up the pressure on a one-goal cushion, or going away from home and being happy with a draw, it was all out attack, all the time. Sure they lost now and again, but they always scored. They lost 4-3 to Liverpool in what is still considered the most thrilling match in Premiership history. 4-0, 5-1, 6-1, 3-2 – you could confuse the results list with the list of bookmakers' odds, the numbers were so high. Teams would go to St James' Park and reciprocate by playing ten players all in defence – they never knew where the threat was going to come from next. Mark the strikers out of the game and you'd find the box full of defenders instead.

"What was it like to be a defender at Newcastle under Kevin Keegan?" former left-back John Beresford was asked by a reporter years later. "The only defender at Newcastle in those days was the goalkeeper – everybody else played up front" was his response. " It doesn't matter if they score three, because we'll score five" was Keegan's philosophy, echoed by the Geordie roar.

Alas, those glory days came to an end in January of 1997 when a visibly older Keegan left the club, the pressures of Premier League management and the astronomical expectations of the Geordie nation finally taking their toll.

It was a sad day. The city became a funeral parlour. Crowds gathered outside the ground to find out if what they'd heard was really true. People cried. The front page of one national newspaper simply showed a photograph of a team scarf tied around the gates of the club's ground. It was the end of an era.

In the years since, Newcastle have had their ups and downs. More downs than ups if we're to be realistic. The days of cavalier football a thing of the past, no fewer than seven different managers have since tried to turn the club's fortunes around with little or no success. The latest manager, Sam Allardyce, was sacked after just eight months in charge.

One of the defining moments of the Keegan era was a 5-0 destruction of League Champions Manchester Utd in 1996. Last week, Manchester Utd beat Newcastle 6-0. The humiliation is complete, the last beautiful memory finally eclipsed. The club is currently 11th in the league, at its lowest ebb since before the Keegan days.

At 4pm on Wednesday, January 16th. the club announced via its official website that the man known as the Geordie Messiah had returned to the club he left 11 years ago, almost to the day. Four hours later Kevin Keegan watched from the Directors' Box as the players he had yet to meet devoured a beleaguered Stoke City side 4-1 in the FA Cup, the sound of his name ringing in their ears as the thought to be extinct Geordie roar was suddenly reborn.

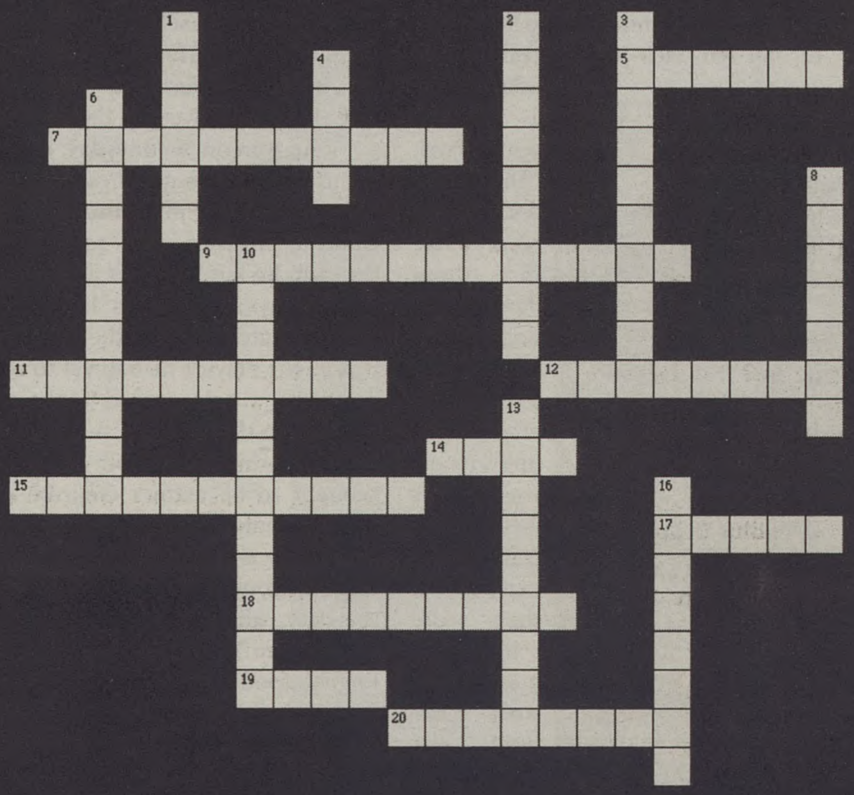
Now is a good time to get into English football. The Entertainers are back, and they are back with a vengeance. There is a new force in English football, and they have a few scores to settle.

If you want to be a part of it, Newcastle entertain Bolton this Saturday at 11.15 am Louisiana time – Keegan's first match in his new spell as Newcastle manager.

English Premier League
Standings as of
January 17, 2008

1	Manchester United
2	Arsenal
3	Chelsea
4	Liverpool
5	Everton
6	Aston Villa
7	Manchester City
8	Blackburn
9	Portsmouth
10	West Ham United
11	Newcastle United
12	Tottenham
13	Reading
14	Middlesbrough
15	Bolton
16	Birmingham
17	Wigan Athletic
18	Sunderland
19	Fulham
20	Derby County

CROSSWORD PUZZLE:
ON THE SILVER SCREEN



ACROSS
5. _____ Rush
7. Ice Cube film
9. __________'s War
11. Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson film
12. Jerry Seinfeld animated film
14. In the Name of the ______
15. Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter musical
17. ______ and the Chipmunks
18. Keira Knightly and James McAvoy
19. The _____ Runner
20. Aliens v. _______

DOWN
1. One ______ Call
2. I Am Legend star
3. Film about the Loch Ness monster, respectively
4. New hit comedy about a sarcastic teenager
6. National Treasure star
8. 27 _______
10. P.S. I Love You star
13. Fairy tale spoof starring Amy Adams and Patrick Dempsey
16. The Dewey Cox story

Horoscopes

Capricorn (12/22 –1/20) Louisiana weather really messes with your head, doesn't it? And in every sense, too: your hair is a mess, you feel a cold coming on and you are doing an obscene amount of laundry because you have to change your clothes at least twice a day. Gotta love it.

Aquarius (1/21-2/19)That person who has been annoying you will not magically turn into a pumpkin which you would appreciate much more; instead you will have to deal with it eventually.

Pisces (2/20-3/20) Tomorrow you will be convinced it is the end of the world. So skip your classes, go crazy and wait for the end to come. When it doesn't, don't worry, you're not crazy, you just got the date wrong.

Aries (3/21-4/20) It's a new semester, a new year, a new start. Don't screw it up.

Taurus (4/21-5/21) I know you were looking for a look into your future, or an insight into why Jupiter and Venus are aligned, but you are looking in the wrong place; maybe next week.

Gemini (5/22-6/21)You know you want to give Karl Marx a big, old hug, don't even try and deny it.

Cancer (6/22-7/23) Someday you will find that everything in your life is pointless and you'll wish you were someone else. When this day comes, give me a call, and I'll make you feel even worse.

Leo (7/24-8/23) All natural is the way to go. Cut all the expendable things out of your life.

Virgo (8/24 –9/23) Call me a cynic, but I don't think that alchohol improves your work in any way.

Libra (9/24-10/22) You will be inexplicably itchy this week. I mean serious hives and pain. When was the last time you bathed?

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) Sometime this week you will see a penny on the ground; don't pick it up, though, someone else may need it, say Taurus or Aquarius. OR you could just be a selfish git and pick it up, but I have one word for you... karma.

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) Underneath your bed is a very sinister monster who will eat your homework, cripple you, give you headaches from its never-ceasing growling, and provide you with a plethora of excuses to feed your unsuspecting professors; too bad none of them will believe you.

CENTENARY CONCERT WIRE

Jan. 18, Friday
Charlie Robison
10:30 PM @ Billy Bob's Texas
Ft. Worth, TX
$10 GA, $15 reserved
http://wwww.billybobstexas.com
http://www.charlierobison.com/

Jan. 18, Friday
Ron Paul Fundraiser: Featuring The Noids, Dementia, Righteous Bucks, Surrounded by Monsters, and Beneath the Buried
8 PM @ Harlequin Alley
All Ages
www.myspace.com/harlequinalley

Jan. 18, Friday
Wellington, Porcelain Arms, and Anavie
10 PM @ Warehouse
www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

Jan. 19, Saturday
Fallen to Rise, Recon, It Prevails, and American Me
8PM @ Harlequin Alley
All Ages
www.myspace.com/harlequinalley

Jan. 19, Saturday
Moira Red, the Sunkissed Barelabisca
10 PM @ the Warehouse
www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

Jan. 25, Friday
Robert Earl Keen
10:30 PM @ Billy Bob's Texas
Ft. Worth, TX
$12 GA, $18 reserved
http://wwww.billybobstexas.com
http://www.robertearlkeen.com/

Jan. 25, Friday
BoneDance, Lands of Mine, and Eves Descent
8 PM @ Harlequin Alley
www.myspace.com/harlequinalley

Jan. 25, Friday
Face Plant, the Crisis, the Blue Eclipse
10 PM @ the Warehouse
www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

Jan. 26, Saturday
And, Wellington, Silver City Skyline, Amateur Hour, and Triumphant Return
7 PM @ Harlequin Alley
www.myspace.com/harlequinalley

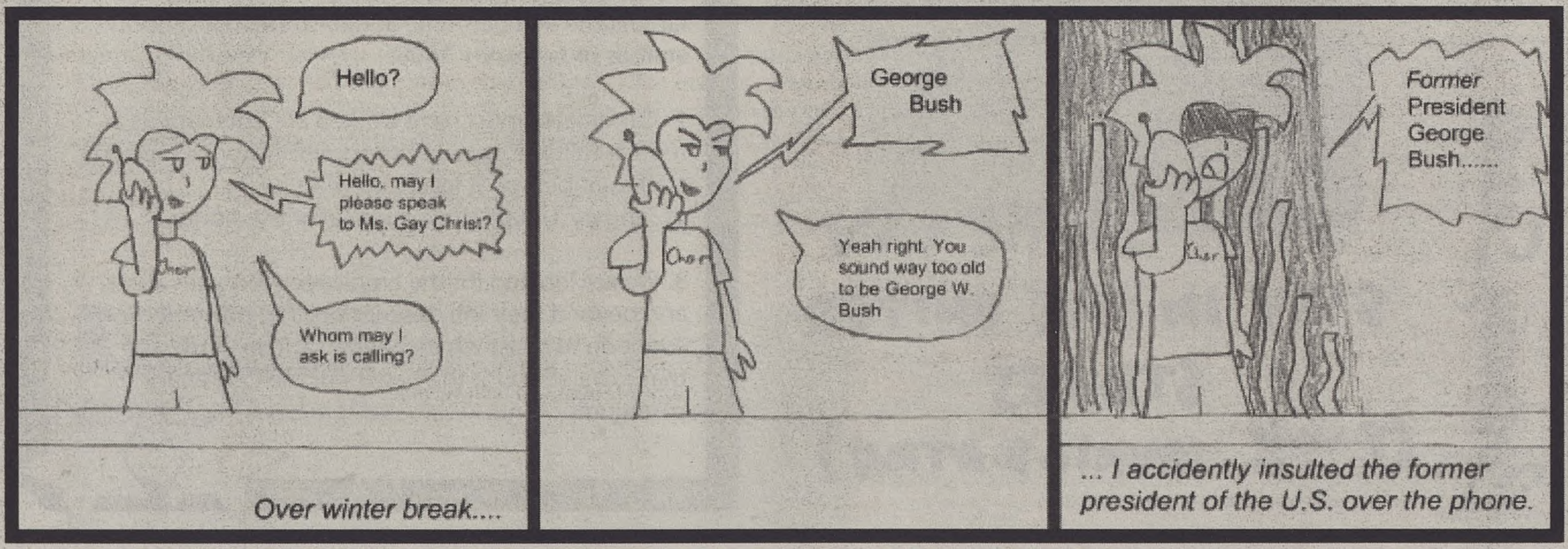
Jan. 26, Saturday
Cory Morrow
Doors @ 7 PM, Show @ 8
Granada Theater
Dallas, TX
$15 and up
http://www.corymorrow.com/
http://tickets.granadatheater.com/ordertickets.asp?p=765

Jan. 26, Saturday
James McMurtry
...watch the video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTW0y6kazWM
8 PM @ Blue Moon Saloon
Lafayette, LA
http://www.jamesmcmurtry.com
http://www.bluemoonpresents.com/index.html

Feb. 1, Friday
Cross Canadian Ragweed
11 PM @ Mardi Gras Texas Style!
Dallas, TX
$34 and up
http://www.crosscanadianragweed.com/
http://www.mardigrasdfw.com/

A Day with Christ

by Chris Christ


Hello?
Hello, may I please speak to Ms. Gay Christ?
Whom may I ask is calling?
Over winter break....
George Bush
Yeah right. You sound way too old to be George W. Bush
Former President George Bush......
... I accidently insulted the former president of the U.S. over the phone.

Vote now!

Log in at https://secure.centenary.edu/login/

Please submit your nominations by Friday, February 1, 2008. Faculty members who have served at Centenary College for five years or longer are eligible. In your nomination message, please provide reasons why your nominee should be considered an outstanding teacher. Consider teaching ability, excellence in advising, College service, mentoring ability, and campus leadership in your evaluation.

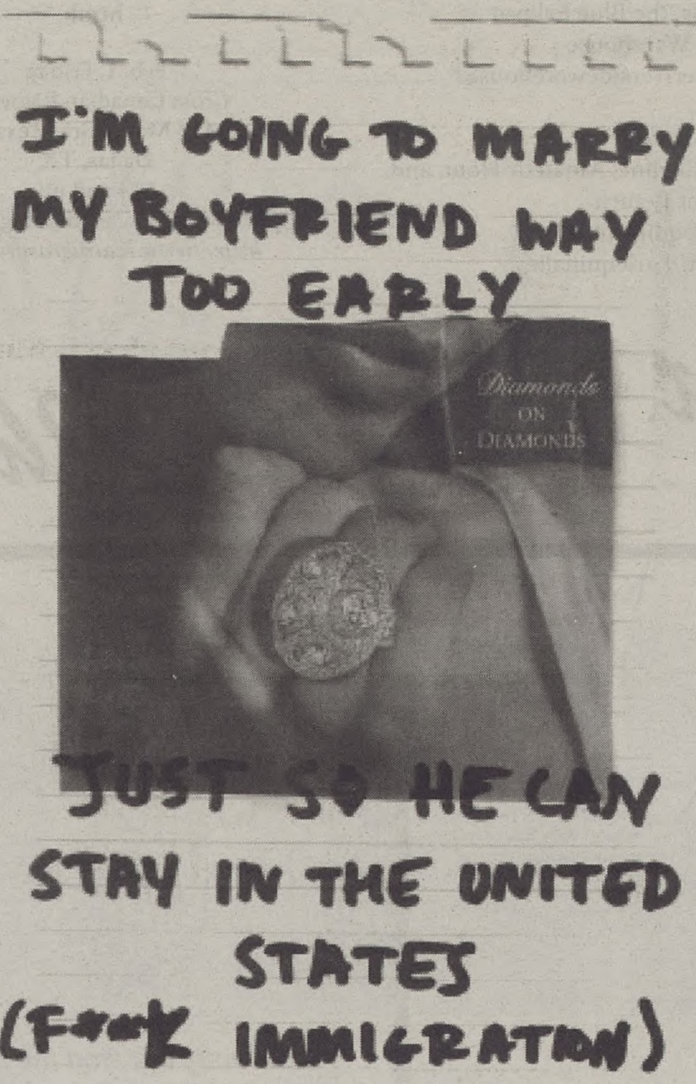
A committee of student members selects a deserving recipient. We will announce the award at the Founders' Day activities on February 21, 2008. Please carefully consider your teachers and colleagues and submit persuasive nominations.

Sudoku

		2		7		3		5
7	5		8					
						4		
	7					5		
	4		7	9	1		6	
		8					9	
		1						
					3		4	6
9		5		6		2		

Centenary Secrets

In order to participate take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box #786 or slip it under the Conglomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.


Diamonds ON DIAMONDS

I'M GOING TO MARRY MY BOYFRIEND WAY TOO EARLY

JUST SO HE CAN STAY IN THE UNITED STATES (F**K IMMIGRATION)

STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF MAKE YOUR NOMINATIONS!

The seventh annual President's Excellence Award will be presented February 2008. This award recognizes the superior service of an outstanding Centenary College staff member and will be consistent with the Outstanding Teacher Award.

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2. Candidates must have worked at Centenary, as a regular fulltime orpart time administrator or support staff member, for at least two years as of January 1, 2008 to be eligible for this honor.

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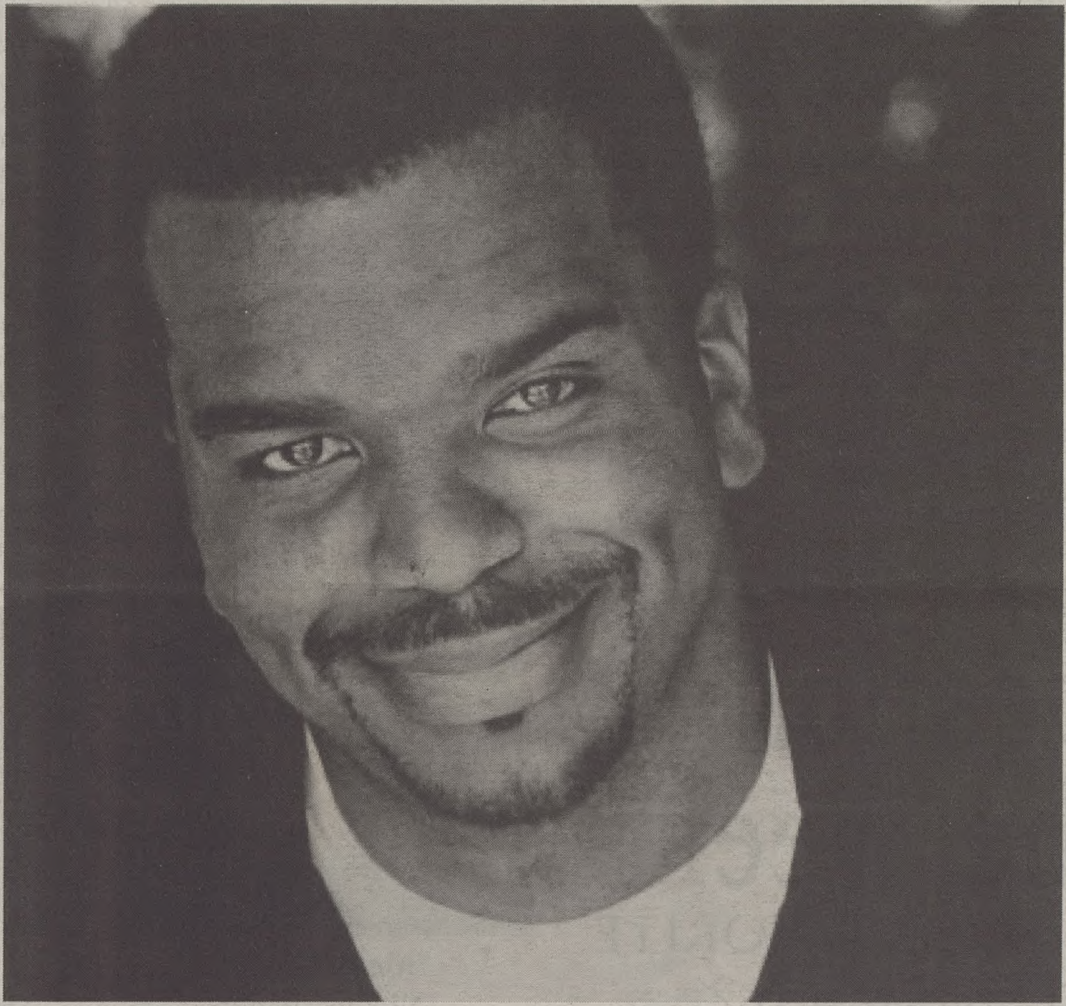
The CONGLOMERATE

January 25, 2008 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 15

Comedian Craig Robinson from "The Office" to entertain students

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief



Students who stopped by the Whited Room on Wednesday were privy to just a taste of what can be expected this Saturday when comedian and actor Craig Robinson visits Centenary.

Student organization Fighting Squirrels Productions provided the golden combination of Cane's chicken and episodes of "The Office" to encourage students to attend this Saturday's event, featuring the actor who plays the entertainingly droll Darryl Philbin on the show.

"A lot of students who came to [Wednesday's event] told us that this was a good idea and that they loved 'The Office,'" said Naana Frezel, senior and President of Fighting Squirrels.

Tickets and Marketing Co-Chair Mary Walter said, "We chose Craig because we thought he appealed to a lot of people and we really like his humor."

Indeed, it seems that Darryl has a transformative effect on viewers. When asked what she loves about the show and the character, senior Jennifer Majchrowicz spouted amusing phrases that do not make sense to any but fans of the show. "Bippity boppity! 'The Office' is by far the funniest show on television," she said. "Craig Robinson adds the perfect amount of comedy with Darryl, from his fake phrases to Michael to his relationship with Kelly. Plus, his roles in 'Knocked Up' and other movies give it that extra something! Dinkin' flicka!"

For those less knowledgeable about popular comedic culture, "dinkin' flicka" is one of Darryl's imaginative phrases, which purportedly means "that's life" and is a "black man phrase," in his own words. The phrase is even more amusing when Steve Carell's character Michael starts repeating it back to him.

He has played parts in various other popular comedy shows on television, like "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "Arrested Development," and "The Bernie Mac Show." Robinson has also made a name for himself on the silver screen with starring roles in "Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story" and "Daddy's Little Girls." He fills a fun role as an honest bouncer who denies a pregnant Katherine Heigl and her older sister entry into a club in "Knocked Up." Jenna Fischer, who stars as the adorable Pam Beesly on "The Office," appears with Robinson in "Walk Hard" as well.

Fighting Squirrels Productions was formed just a few years ago to provide entertainment for the Centenary and Shreveport communities. Their first event was with comedian and actor Hal Sparks, and since then, they have organized an annual spring concert with bands like Better Than Ezra and The Terms. The group still plans to do a concert this spring and urges students to attend the Robinson event this Saturday to help them raise more money.

"We wanted to do two events this year to give us more name recognition," said Senior Frezel. "The more tickets we sell, the more money we have for an awesome spring concert."

Robinson will take the stage at the Gold Dome at 7 p.m. General admission tickets are available for $10 and can be purchased online at www.CentenaryTickets.com, from any Fighting Squirrels member, in the Student Life Office, or at the door. The student members are the aforementioned Frezel and Walter, Vice President Liz Tomsula, Production Chair Mary Ham, Venue Chair Saul Castaneda, Hospitality Chair Tracy Gilbeau, Fundraising Chair Cory Shadd, and Tickets and Marketing Co-Chair Jessica Pfanner. Slices of Pieworks pizza will also be available at the event for just $1.

For more information, call 318-869-5117 or email fsp@centenary.edu

INSIDE

Centenary celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, read more on page 4

Presidential candidate Ron Paul visits Shreveport, page 6.

Investigation of Heath Ledger's death continues on page 11

Letter from the editor: I hate headlines, but I love Heath

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

I can't explain why the death of a celebrity, one whom we've never met or properly known, can affect people in almost tangible ways. Some people will look to the supposed superficiality of my generation, and shake their heads at the fact that we appear to be more shaken by the death of Heath Ledger than the report that 5 million people have died in the conflict in the Congo. But the two things aren't really comparable; both are tragic in drastically different ways, and the more cynical generally give celebrities less credit than they deserve by virtue of that label (never mind the fact that the media directs our attention to "what's important" by reporting more on one story than another).

I know some people won't understand; it's not that this matters more or is any more tragic than other events in the world. All I can say is that the news is the worst and most penetrating when it's so unexpected. Chatting online to a friend, I was sure she had to be making some sort of cruel mistake when she suddenly said, "Dude, is Heath Ledger dead?" I was transported to nearly seven years ago, when I was chatting online to my cousin (incidentally, the boyfriend of the girl I just quoted), and he seemingly randomly said, "Is Aaliyah dead?"

It's weird – we're not supposed to be naïve enough to believe that these people will live forever. We're not supposed to be naïve enough to believe that everybody our age, unknown or huge celebrity, will live to the ripe old age of 90 and have 90 grandkids – but it happens. And even if these people are most famous for just being part of popular culture, it does realign your train of thought; listening to an Aaliyah song is never quite the same (she was only 22 when she died in a plane crash in the Bahamas), and I don't even want to think what watching Ledger play the Joker "The Dark Knight" is going to be like.

The thing about Heath is that he was young (28), and looked up to, and yes, even fantasized over – and he was one of those few and rare celebrities that one would think would be a normal guy if you ever had the chance to hang out with him. He had a few altercations with paparazzi, sure, but he never ran rampant in the tabloids with stories of drugs and orgies and more drugs and endangering his baby like, say, Britney Spears is currently so famous for doing.

In fact, Ledger reportedly loved being a dad (he is survived by his two-year-old daughter, whose mother is fellow actress Michelle Williams) – just another thing to add to his normal guy resume. Quite apart from his own personality, he starred in many beloved movies (many times as the beloved protagonist), most of which are adored by my generation. You may ridicule me or just wonder why I devote this entire space to Ledger, but much of the Centenary community was just as surprised as any other when they heard the news on Tuesday afternoon. Just at Sunday's Conglomerate meeting, we were discussing our favorite movies as preteens, which morphed into the question of the week, and Ledger was certainly a star. It may seem odd, but we grew up with "10 Things I Hate About You" and "A Knight's Tale" – those kinds of movies are just as much a part of our childhood/teenage lives as the books we read repeatedly and the songs that we memorized.

Maybe it's not even personal. Maybe it's just the jolting realization that there are some truths to certain overly employed maxims and clichés, and that we have to face it – in this case, Ledger's death represents the sad and tragic truth that life often is too short.

Question of the Week

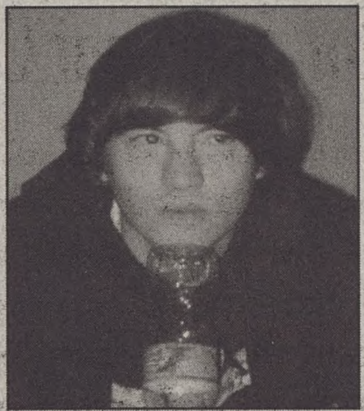
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PRETEEN MOVIE?

"Mean Girls."
-Nicole Turner,
Junior

"10 Things I Hate About You."
- Marissa Teauseau
Sophomore

"Princess Diaries."
-Jennifer Martin,
Senior

"Charlie's Angels."
-Suneera Kompelli,
Sophomore



"Dumb & Dumber."
-Jason Kay,
Junior

"Mighty Ducks 1,2, & 3."
-Brandi Andrews,
Junior

EDITORIALS

Ten ways to go green for the new year

Megan Ottesen, Senior
Centenary Environmental
Association member

Many of us have already broken our New Year's resolutions to exercise daily, drink less caffeine, and eat healthy. While those are admirable personal goals, this can be the year to think beyond ourselves and resolve to help the planet as a whole. By "going green" for the New Year, we can easily become more sustainable and reduce our expenses both during and after college. The following suggestions will help make this an eco-friendly year:

1. Turn off the lights before leaving rooms and hallways.

2. Eliminate phantom loads by unplugging cell phone chargers and computers at night and during class. A "phantom load" refers to energy wasted by electronics when they are plugged in but not used. An easy way to do this is to purchase a single power strip in which to plug electronics and then turn off when you're done with them.

3. Use Centenary's recycling program (mixed paper, aluminum cans, and newspaper), but do not recycle items with food on them! The Centenary Environmental Association (CEA) also collects old printer cartridges and cell phones. Recyclables can be placed in the large collection bin behind James or dropped off in resident hall lobbies or the SUB for the CEA's weekly collection.

4. Avoid single use items. Instead, purchase reusable tableware and dishtowels, and use a Brita water filter or Nalgene bottle. Ridding your life of paper plates, plastic cups, paper towels, and plastic bottles will prevent waste and save money!

5. Before throwing away clothing, folders, or other unwanted items, see if someone else wants them or donate to Goodwill. Visit the T-Shirt Surgery Livejournal (community.livejournal.com/t_shirt_surgery) to discover fun ways to reuse clothing!

6. Always try to carpool or look into biking.

7. Print double-sided in the library. When buying a new printer, make sure it features double-sided printing.

8. Take less food to-go from the Caf. Those styrofoam cups and to-go boxes don't disintegrate once thrown away.

9. Replace plastic and paper bags from stores with a cloth shopping bag. Target currently sells $1 "green" shopping bags that fold and zip up to fit in purses.

10. To conserve water, turn off the tap while brushing teeth and shaving.

In addition to those small, sustainable measures that we can incorporate into our daily lives, the upcoming fundraiser called Chains for Change will allow students and faculty to positively impact Centenary's campus. To purchase four solar panels for Centenary's library roof, the Centenary Environmental Association (CEA) and the newly "green" Chemistry Club will collect money throughout the semester. A little pocket money from each student will go a long way for an excellent sustainable addition to Centenary! Any questions about the fundraiser or how to be more environmentally friendly can be directed to CEA faculty advisor Dr. Jeanne Hamming at jhamming@centenary.edu.

Call for Assistant Copy Editor

Conglomerate is looking for an Assistant Copy Editor. This job requires massive and specific knowledge of the English language, rules of grammar, spelling, and newspaper copy guidelines (rules for headlines, captions, etc.). The Copy Editor is in charge of editing all articles before they go in the Conglomerate, as well as all headlines and captions. If you're interested, please contact us by email at paper@centenary.edu

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The Conglomerate
2911 Centenary Blvd.

CAMPUS/LOCAL NEWS

Centenary grants big bucks to new students

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

Students attending Centenary for the first time in 2008 will have another form of financial aid to help out with the rising costs of education. The newly announced Louisiana Live Your Dream aid program will be available to new first year students eligible for federal Pell Grants, and can be renewed for four years based on eligibility for the grants.

The program will complete the cost of tuition after all aid is applied to a student's account. Tim Crowley, Director of Admissions at Centenary, said, "If you took this school year right now, tuition and fees—remember we're not talking the whole ride—it's $20, 950 dollars, for a student here right now. Let's say they bring in federal funds totaling $5,000 dollars, and the state money they bring in is $6,000 dollars. So, $20,950 minus $11,000 dollars leaves a balance of $9,950 dollars. If that student received from me, from the get-go, a President's Scholarship of 10,000, it's done. I mean, if a President's Scholarship covers it, they're done. So [for] many students, their actual scholarship will cover that."

Centenary Provost Dr. Darrell Colson said in an interview published by the Centenary News Service, "This is part of Centenary's ongoing commitment to make college affordable for students and their families, and why Centenary previously launched CAP (Centenary Affordability Program) and the Campaign for Scholarships."

Crowley and Mary Sue Rix, Director of Financial Aid at Centenary, noted that Colson was the originator of the program.

The program is new, but in a sense it has been available all along. Said Crowley, ". . . When we started thinking about this and looking at this, obviously we looked at current students and past applicants, and we found that this isn't a program that's really costing the college a lot of money. In many ways, it's just repackaging, because you know all of the money from the federal government, all the money from the state government, and all the college aid is going to take care of the cost; we may have done this in the past, but it's just a way of repackaging it under the title of Live Your Dream."

Both Crowley and Rix mentioned that there was already some positive response from some new students and parents, but also said that most wouldn't yet know whether or not they were Pell eligible. This is because it's difficult to determine Pell eligibility before filling out the FAFSA, and the qualifications are rather hazy.

"There's not a limit," said Rix. "I can tell you [about] a family that has two people—a mother and a daughter—a single parent, who makes $19,000 dollars a year. They were eligible for absolutely no federal funds. I can tell you [about] another family . . . that made $58,000; they had four children, all in college, and they were all eligible for Pell. So, it's very hard to say that you can't get it because your income is more than a certain amount." According to her, Pell eligibility derives from a lot of reasons, including income and number of dependents.

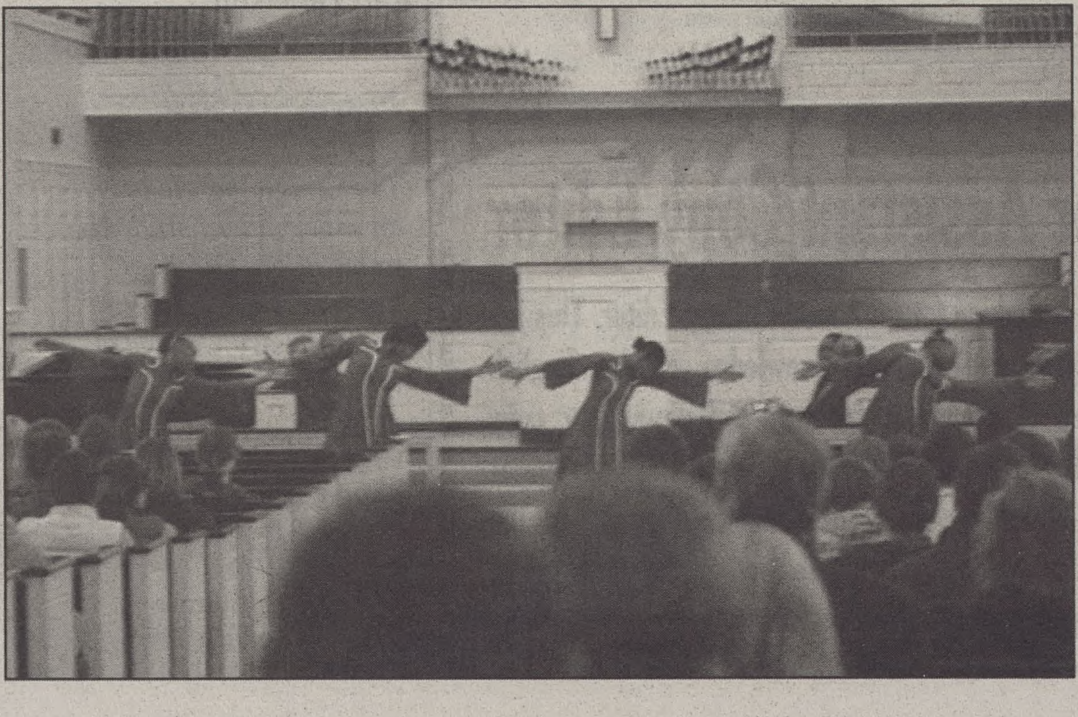
Said Rix, "The Pell eligibility and funds are the same whether a student attends Notre Dame or Purdue or any other school."

Crowley added that, "There's not a magical income level . . . you can't say [that] if you earn this much, you can't get Pell." But, said Rix, "I will say that if you make $1,000,000 dollars, you're probably not going to be eligible. I will go out on a limb for that, but I won't even say $100,000 dollars anymore."

The Louisiana Live Your Dream program comes as Centenary celebrates 100 years in Shreveport. Centenary President Kenneth L. Schwab said, "While the College now serves students from 36 states and 14 countries, we are pleased that the Louisiana Live Your Dream program means we will open our doors even wider to our own Louisiana students."

Said Crowley, "We've mailed out to every principle and every counselor in the state a letter and a poster describing the program, along with postcards to hand out to students. We're also working with the Office of Church Relations to do the same thing with youth pastors. The thing is, I couldn't call up students to ask if they're Pell eligible, but there are principles, counselors and pastors who might know better than me—for example, if they're on a lunch program."

The important fact stands that the word is out. With luck, Pell eligible and non-Pell eligible students will look at Centenary because of its impressive aid package, which puts our college in the right direction. The Louisiana Live Your Dream program is just another improvement that should keep us on the right track.



The College remembers Martin Luther King, Jr. at convocation

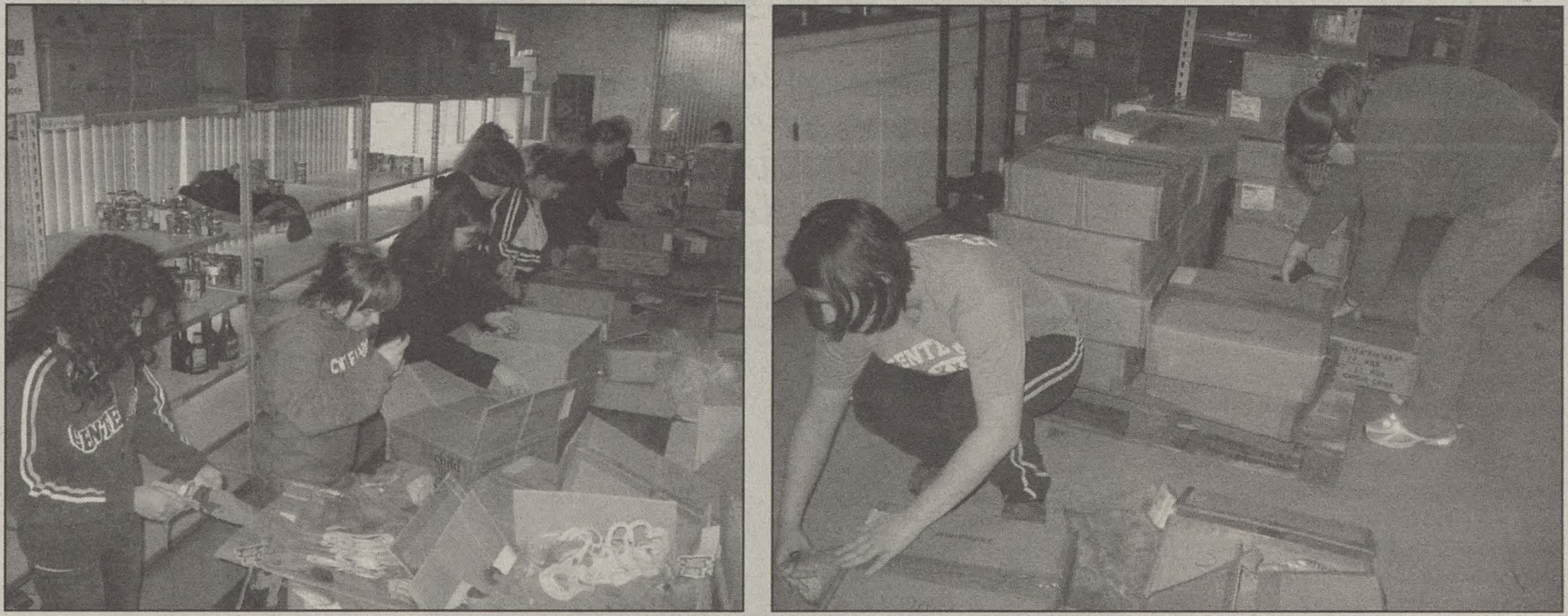
On January 21, 2008 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy was celebrated here at Centenary. As the Minority Student Advisor for the Minority Student Association I would like to say thank you to all who attend the services at Brown Chapel. We are truly grateful to Dean Bradshaw and Student Life for their active roles in this year's celebration.

Minnie Jenkins

Pictured: The Union Springs Baptist Church Youth Ensemble "Pebbles of Faith" performed a liturgical dance to "Matthew 28" in Brown Chapel on Monday. Also at the event, Provost Dr. Darrel Colson and Reverend Doyle R. Adams, Sr., delivered moving speeches. Adams is the pastor of Benton's Elizabeth Baptist Church. Centenary Senior Nolan Budgewater sang "Blessed Assurance" a cappella. Photo by Emily DeLatin.

Resident Assistants volunteer at the Food Bank

RAs volunteered at the Northwest Louisiana Food Bank on Monday, January 21st from 11 to 1. Photos by Mindy McKoin.



NATIONAL NEWS

J. K. Rowling to speak at Harvard commencement

Amanda Russell
Staff Writer

Saying goodbye is never easy. This past year, I've had to say goodbye to an important part of my fictional reading life: Harry Potter and the wizarding world. Fortunately for Potter fans, the release of Book 7 was not the end. J.K. Rowling released "The Tales of Beedle the Bard" and confirmed rumors of possibly writing an eighth Harry Potter book that will focus on obscure characters and other aspects of the wizarding world that did not receive much attention in the series. Fans have two more movies to look forward to as well as fun revelations such as the announcement that Dumbledore "bats for the other team." And who can hardly wait for the Harry Potter theme park, slated to open in Florida as early as December 2009?

As a senior at Centenary, graduation is not the end, either. If I attended Harvard University, I would be in for an extra treat because the magical mistress herself is slated to speak at Harvard's commencement exercises on June 5, according to the "Harvard Crimson." Harvard President and noted historian Drew G. Faust lauded J.K. Rowling, saying, "Perhaps no one in our time has done more than Rowling to inspire young people to experience the excitement and the sheer joy of reading." The "Crimson" notes that Rowling's appearance makes up for the fact that Harry was never able to return to Hogwarts as a student for his seventh year. The Harvard community has many devotees. The night the last book in the series, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," was released, Harvard Square opened for a nightlong celebration. Thousands of fans flocked to the campus festival to sport their best wizard costumes and enjoy live Wizard Rock performances by bands such as Harry and the Potters. The popularity of the novels is not surprising: over 375 million copies have been sold worldwide. The books are available in over 65 languages and in 200 countries! As commencement speaker, Rowling will receive an honorary degree from Harvard. For the majority of Muggles (non-magic folk) unable to attend the ceremony, never fear. Harvard will make a video clip of Rowling's speech available on its website.

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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2008

Republicans and Democrats still battle for nomination among their parties

Beth Craft
Staff Writer

Despite Senator John McCain's victory in South Carolina on Saturday, January 19, the Republicans' race for the presidential nomination continues to heat up. McCain won New Hampshire as well, making him the only Republican candidate to win more than one primary. CNN reports that McCain took 40% of the non-evangelical vote, but failed to capture more "very conservative" votes than Mike Huckabee and Fred Thompson. Huckabee came in second, Thompson claimed third, and Mitt Romney took fourth.

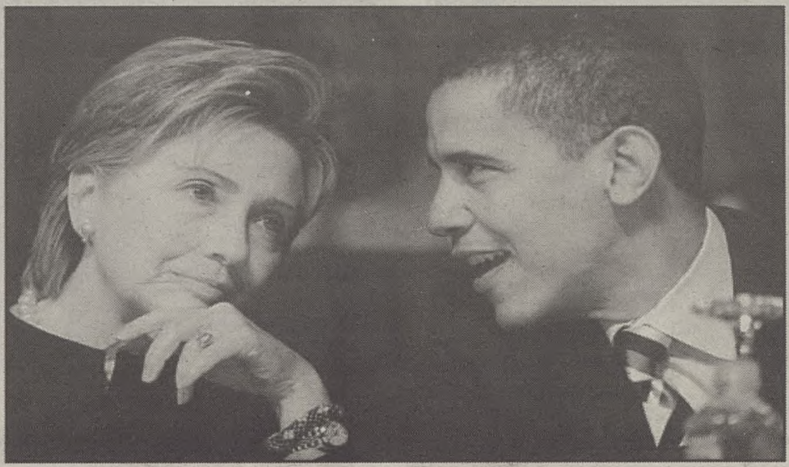
Hilary Clinton won Nevada on Saturday, adding momentum to her victory in New Hampshire; however, she still falls short of Barack Obama in delegate votes. Edwards came in third in Nevada with only 4% of the vote, leaving Obama to collect 45%--only 6% shy of Clinton's 51%. With Clinton and Obama neck-and-neck with delegate votes, the coming South Carolina primary, which is set for Saturday, January 26, will be an important win.

As for the Republican vote in Nevada, more than half the state elected Mitt Romney. The rest of the votes were split between Ron Paul, McCain, Huckabee, and Thompson. Paul took 14%, edging out McCain and his 13%. Huckabee and Thompson both left with 8%.

Florida will hold its primaries on Tuesday, January 29. The Associated Press reports details for this primary. Because Florida broke party rules by moving up its primary, it lost half of its Republican delegates and all of its Democratic ones, leaving only 57 GOP delegates at stake. Polls show Clinton boasting a "wide lead" over Obama and Edwards, but the Republicans are still undecided, providing plenty of competition for the candidates.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I kind of like seeing Barack and Hillary fight. They're flesh-and-blood people and they have their differences - let' em at it."
- Bill Clinton



"I got my butt kicked. You know, 'what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas?' I hope that turns out to be true in this case."
- Democratic hopeful John Edwards on his result in the Nevada primary

"Could I just mess your hair up a little bit?" -David Letterman to John Edwards, who gained notoriety for his $400 haircuts (Edwards did allow him to mess it up)

News in brief: Ron Paul campaigns in Shreveport, Fred Thompson drops out of Republican race

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Republican candidate Ron Paul made a campaign stop in Shreveport on Monday. He spoke to supporters at the Holiday Inn Financial Plaza downtown about health care, tax reform, the economy, and the ongoing war in Iraq. Paul has a huge Internet following but has made small waves in the media; still, he finished second in the Nevada caucuses last week, just after Mitt Romney. Paul spoke of this at his Shreveport stop, according to The Shreveport Times. "Though we may not be exactly satisfied with the national coverage, there is a political equalizer called the Internet," he said. Shreveport was the first of three campaign stops Paul made in Louisiana (Baton Rouge and New Orleans followed). Republicans voted on Tuesday in state caucuses to decide the delegates to the 2008 Louisiana Republican Convention.

Former Senator Fred Thompson has ended his run for the White House. After finishing in third place in South Carolina's Republican primary last Saturday, he released a statement on Tuesday saying he withdrew his candidacy for President. Thompson was elected as a Senator from Tennessee in 1994 and served for eight years before going on to become a star of popular criminal-legal drama "Law & Order." In other primaries, he did not fare as well: he finished third in Iowa, fifth in Michigan and Nevada, and sixth in New Hampshire. Thompson's withdrawal leaves five candidates in the Republican race: John McCain, Mike Huckabee, Mitt Romney, Ron Paul, and Rudy Giuliani.

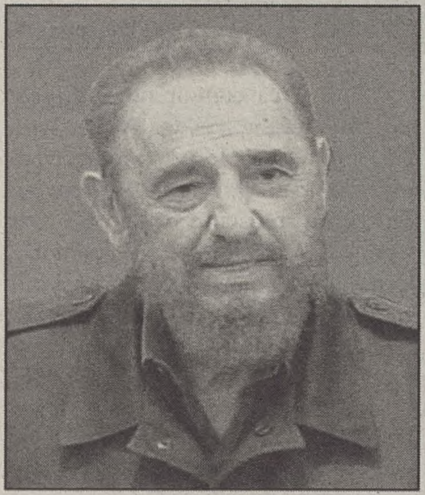
INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Castro faces an uncertain future in Cuba

Kari Patterson
Staff Writer

Fidel Castro, 81, may finally be stepping down as the President of Cuba. Castro, who has been Cuba's leader since 1959, was forced to cede acting presidential duties to his brother, Raul, in 2006 due to emergency intestinal surgery.

While Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva agrees with the Cuban government in saying that Castro "appears healthy enough to return to politics," Castro himself announced last week that he was not physically able to campaign in advance of Sunday's parliamentary elections.



In Sunday's elections, Castro, as well as the other candidates who were running uncontested for their seats in Parliament, was elected, but this does not mean that Castro will automatically continue to be president. Parliament will meet next month to elect the Council of State, which will then elect the President from among its numbers.

Castro could continue as Cuba's leader despite fragile health and not having appeared in public since his surgery 18 months ago, but the final decision will not be announced until February 24.

Photo courtesy of about.com.

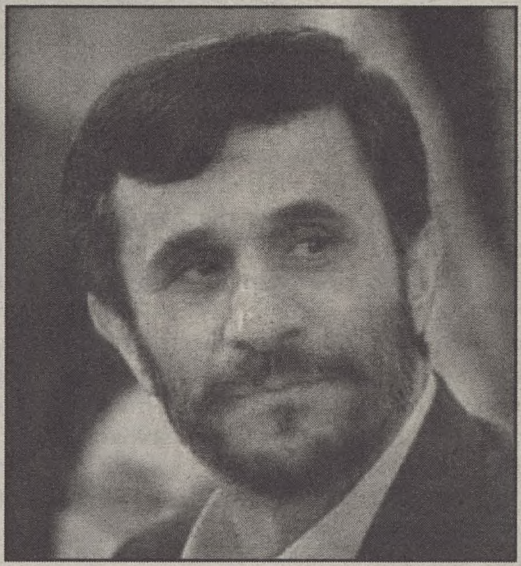
The new year already promises U.S. tensions with Iran

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

The year's conflict began January 6, when the Pentagon released a grainy video of Iranian speedboats quickly approaching U.S. ships in international waters, supposedly threatening them via radio communications. U.S. officials noted that there were no shots fired.

In the video a navy crew member says, "This is coalition warship. I am engaged in transit passage in accordance with international law. I intend no harm. Over."

The boats do not stop their approach, and a heavily accented voice says, "I am coming to you."



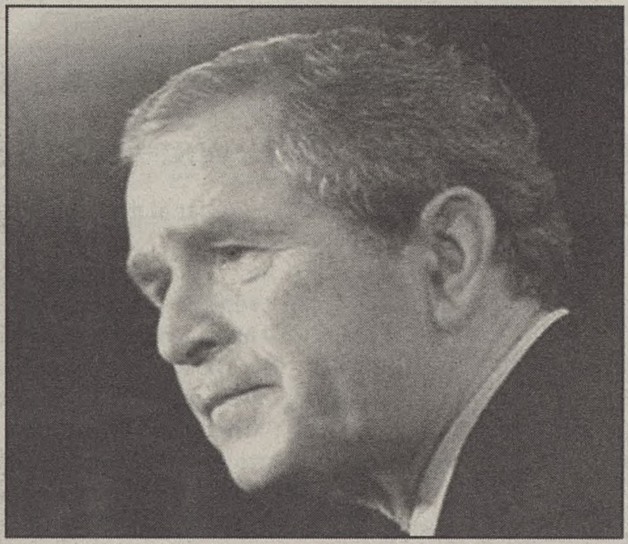
From U.S. ships, a voice says, "Inbound small craft: You are approaching a coalition warship operating in international waters. Your identity is not known; your intentions are unclear. You may be subject to defensive measures. Request that you establish communications now or alter your course immediately to remain clear."

It's then that a heavily accented voice says, "You will explode in a few minutes."

Some controversy arose when Iran released its own video, which depicted a much calmer version of the incident than that of the first video. It also isn't certain whether the accented voice that threatened U.S. ships came from somewhere along the shore or from the boats.

This occurred just prior to President George W. Bush's tour of the Middle East. Speaking in Jerusalem on January 9, he said, "We have made it very clear, and they know our position, and that is: There will be serious consequences if they attack our ships. My advice to them is: Don't do it."

National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley also said, "It's the kind of incident that can provoke exchange of fire, and we think the Iranians need to be on notice that they are fishing in troubled waters here . . . this is a provocative act, not a smart thing to do, and they're going to have to take responsibility for the consequences if they do it again."



Bush, on January 13, said, "Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terror. Iran's actions threaten the security of nations everywhere, so the United States is strengthening our long-standing security commitments with our friends in the Gulf and rallying friends around the world to confront this danger before it is too late."

The Iran nuclear crisis hasn't quieted down, either. On January 18, Iran received its third shipment of nuclear fuel from Russia. Officials in Tehran said that the shipment stands as more proof that Iran is not enriching uranium to make nuclear weapons.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said, "All options that prevent Iran from gaining nuclear capabilities are legitimate within the context of how to grapple with this matter." This is a fairly clear declaration that he is willing to use military action to ensure that Iran doesn't develop nuclear weapons. The statement can't be taken lightly, considering the fact that Israel bombed an unfinished Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981. The reactor was later destroyed in the 1991 Gulf War.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also said recently, "The Zionist regime [Israel] . . . would not dare attack Iran. The Iranian response would make them regret it, and they know this."

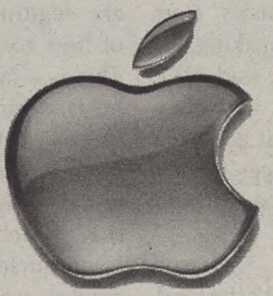
It seems that tensions are growing ever higher, and one can only hope that war is not on the horizon; however, Bush's efforts to "confront this danger before it is too late" are hardly reassuring. Fortunately, Iran has promised to release details on its past nuclear activities, which may help to dispel some fears about Iran. On the other hand, BBC correspondent Jon Leyne said that even if Iran does provide all the answers, this is not going to solve this crisis. It seems as if more conflict is on the way.

All quotes are from CNN.com and bbc.co.uk/news.

Pictured: left, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, courtesy of iranchamber.com. Right, George W. Bush, courtesy of johnmitchell.org.

Apple unveils the MacBook Air, the ultimate ultrathin laptop

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer



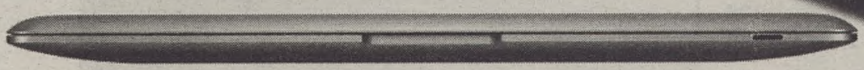
The annual Macworld conference didn't bring another iPhone into the world, but Mac has promised a few noteworthy innovations.

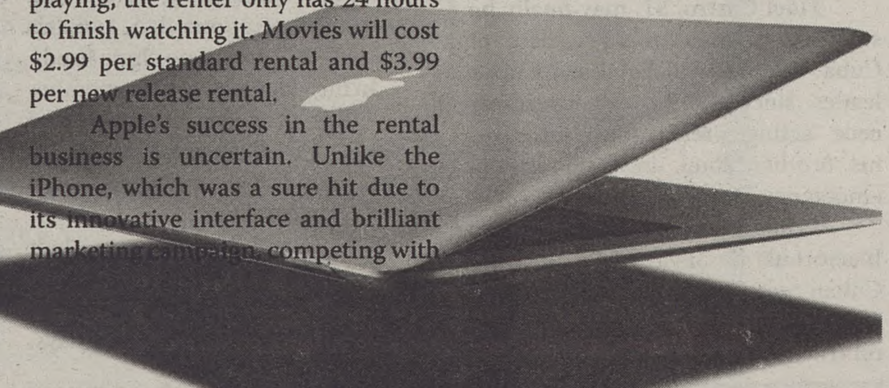
Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO, finally revealed plans for a new ultrathin laptop called the MacBook Air. The laptop will weigh in at three pounds and be just over three quarters of an inch thick. This is an impressive feat considering it will boast a 1.6GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor with 2GB of RAM. A slick 13.3-inch screen, full keyboard, and native 802.11n support will round out the notebook.

The MacBook Air is extraordinary for such a thin machine, but its lackluster performance and the omission of several standard options—for example, an Ethernet port—will likely turn people away. Its battery, like that of the iPhone and iPod, can also only be replaced in the factory. Whether this will keep the MacBook Air from mainstream success remains to be seen, but one thing's certain: Apple's new notebook is a thing of beauty. The cost is currently $1,799.00.

Apple has also unveiled its new movie rental service. Titles can be downloaded onto a PC and watched for up to 30 days after they're put on the hard drive, but once a movie starts playing, the renter only has 24 hours to finish watching it. Movies will cost $2.99 per standard rental and $3.99 per new release rental.

Apple's success in the rental business is uncertain. Unlike the iPhone, which was a sure hit due to its innovative interface and brilliant marketing campaign, competing with Vongo doesn't seem like an extremely profitable business. Apple's rental service is also vaguely reminiscent of the DIVX systems of the late 1990s, which were terrible failures. However, it's always tough to judge the market; watchers can only wait to see what consumer response will yield.





Strange but true news: accidental twincest and a 25-year-old boomerang

Kat Michiels
Staff Writer

Parrot catches couple in the act

In England, a parrot revealed to his owner that his girlfriend was cheating on him with another man. The African Grey Parrot, named Ziggy, tipped off his owner, Chris Taylor, by making kissing sounds every time it heard the name "Gary" on the television or the radio. At first, Taylor thought it was just something he had picked up, but became more suspicious when the parrot began to say "Hiya Gary" every time his girlfriend's cell phone rang.

Suzy Collins, the girlfriend, confessed when the couple was snuggling on the couch together. Ziggy, in Collins' voice, chirped "I love you, Gary," causing the girl to admit to having a four-month fling with coworker Gary.

Although Taylor ended the relationship with Collins, he also had to give up his beloved Ziggy, who continued to blurt out Gary's name after the break-up. Ziggy now has a new home found by a local pet store owner.

Ziggy and Taylor had been together for eight years.

Montgomery couple holds burglar at gunpoint

After a week's vacation, a couple returned to their home to find that it had been torn apart. The living room was bare, except for piles of trash that were scattered about the first floor. The husband, Adrian, went upstairs to see what damage had been done to the bedrooms and happened upon the burglar, who was wearing Adrian's hat.

Enraged (probably because of the hat situation), Adrian held the burglar at gunpoint before even calling police. Husband and wife then forced the burglar to clean up the mess he had made, putting things back in drawers and in cabinets.

When the police arrived, the burglar complained about having to clean up his mess at gunpoint, but the officers laughed at him. Under Alabama law, the couple could have killed the burglar without penalty.

In London, husband plus wife equals twins

They didn't get married and have twins. This couple fell in love, got married, and then discovered that they were twins. A boy and girl, in an almost Hollywood fashion, were separated at birth and adopted. Quite a few years later, they met and felt "an inevitable attraction to one another." The couple blindly entered into marriage, and soon thereafter, discovered their twin status. A judge annulled the marriage.

What I want to know is why they decided to check on their "twin status." What exactly compelled them to check out this conspiracy theory? Today's lesson: Marrying your first cousin from Arkansas is not the worst-case scenario.

Boomerang returns after 25 years

An Australian Outback town was shocked to find a parcel of mail from America containing a 25-year old boomerang inside. Along with the boomerang was a note from an American who stole it from an Australian museum when he was "younger and dumber." Apparently, "Peter" had been riddled with guilt for the past 25 years and so finally plucked up the courage to send it back.

The museum had since closed down, and Australian officials are now trying to locate the original owner of the boomerang.

Too bad Ziggy wasn't around when Peter decided to five-finger the boomerang. He would have been so busted.

Scholarship Opportunity

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For additional information, contact Dr. Joe Melcher,
Chair of the Scholarship Committee
(504) 944-6013
(504) 520-5099
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Advice from Allison: On secret-keeping and maintaining friendships

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

The opinions and ideas expressed in this article do not in any way reflect those of Centenary College, the Conglomerate, or the writer herself. In fact, these ideas probably don't express any intelligently informed opinions anyway.

Dear Allison,

My best friend cannot keep a secret. Every time I confide in her with personal information, she immediately turns around and tells everyone. I really don't want this problem to ruin our friendship, but I don't know how to approach her about it. I don't think she realizes that she's doing anything wrong.

Sophomore Secrets

Dear Secrets,

Keeping secrets can be very difficult, especially if they contain really incriminating, juicy details about people that you know. Not even I can resist gossip sessions with anyone and everyone I meet, even if I don't know them. Having your most intimate details spilled out to your entire sorority, philosophy class, and the men's soccer team can be quite embarrassing, and it is enough to tear a friendship apart. The best way to approach your friend on this subject is to talk to her privately about it. Let her know how this situation makes you feel. If your friend is truly your best friend, then she will understand and hopefully begin to work on her case of gossip diarrhea. To make sure that your friend really understands the seriousness of this issue, take out a full page ad in the Conglomerate and spill all of your friend's secrets to the entire campus. You can place an ad in the Conglomerate by emailing centenaryconglomerate@gmail.com. It is a small price to pay to keep a friendship strong.

Dear Allison,

My best friend has started seeing this new guy on a regular basis, and I never get to see her. Last semester we had every class together, studied together, and spent most of our free time together. Now that we don't have any of the same classes, I don't get to see her on a regular basis and she seems to be spending the majority of her free time with this new guy. How can I let her know that I miss spending time with her and would like to find some time to hang out?

Senior Solitude

Dear Solitude,

It is very difficult to deal with a best friend getting a new boyfriend. On the one hand, you sympathize because you know what it is like to start hanging out with a new love interest. On the other hand, you think that you would never abandon a friend the way she's abandoned you. It hurts to be the odd man out. I've found that the best way to deal with this situation is to get to know your friend's new guy. Becoming friends with your friend's significant other will guarantee you more time spent with your best friend. Ask this new guy out for dinner and a movie, just the two of you. Really, really get to know this guy. Take him back to your place and see what happens. I think your best friend will get the hint eventually.

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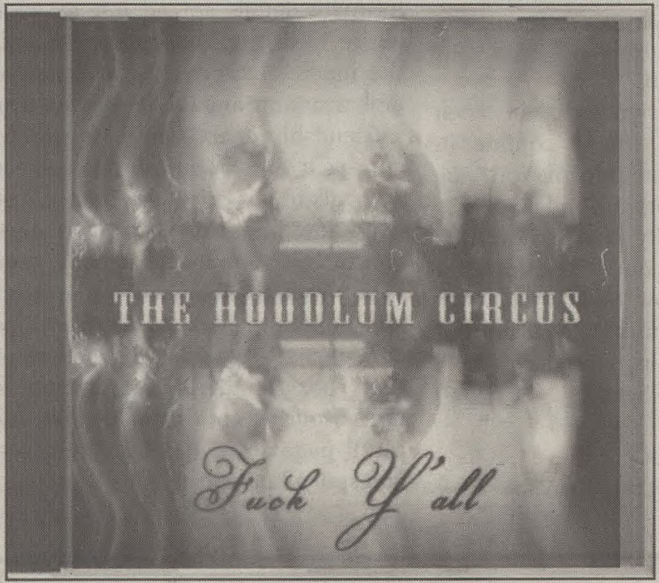
A&E

New Hoodlum Circus album evokes sex, drugs, and rock ‘n roll



Micah Harold
Guest Contributor

Micah Harold is a Shreveport Times featured artist. He practices tattooing at Third Eye Tattoo (formerly Modern Primitives) on Kings Highway next to campus, which he co-owns.

Following in the footsteps of musical greats like Iggy Pop, Lou Reed, Black Flag and the Dead Kennedys, The Hoodlum Circus takes the sound a step further by way of their new EP, an aural barrage of sex, drugs and rock ‘n roll called “Fuck Y’all.”

As one would expect, “Fuck Y’all” delivers, with sounds that scream at the listener like the ravings of a mad Baptist preacher backed by a disgruntled choir. Make no mistake; all involved parties speak for themselves.

The opening eight chords of “Vegas” set the tone. The song strips you naked and throws you into a chaotic land of Nod, clutched in the grasps of a delirious, experimental diatribe that promises to push back twice as hard. It doesn’t take long for the listener to quickly realize that it’s not just the vocals on a rant, but the band itself, hell bent on exacting a carefully orchestrated attack on the senses by way of their bumping bass, violent percussion and grinding guitars.

As soon as the first track ends, the second track, “Brave Man,” begins. Its throbbing, humming intro easily lulls the listener into a false sense of security before exploding into a blunt force stomp that brings to mind images of dirty sex in an alleyway behind a dumpster or one-night-stands that leave you reeking of cigarettes and cheap perfume. Lyrically, it smacks of 1950s “beat” with a kind of twisted poetry one could only hope to find (if one were so lucky) scribbled on the walls of a truck stop restroom.

“Barnburner,” the seemingly out-of-place third track, is the band’s declaration of independence. It’s a rollicking exercise in artistic license that shuns the complacency of modern music through a vituperate mix of traditional country chords, punk rhythms and yowling vocals. The song delivers an in-your-face idea of what it would be like to beat Hank Williams, Tom Waits, and a fifth of whiskey together with a pair of boxing gloves.

Lastly, but certainly not least, is “Akira,” a tirade of seemingly drunken ramblings only half masked by the song’s smart lyrics. There is an intelligence at work somewhere back there. “Akira” wraps up the EP on a hard note, assuring listeners that The Hoodlum Circus leaves no picket-line left uncrossed, no musical bridge left unburned, no genre left undefiled and no soul left behind to question the type of weirdness their collective creativity is capable of producing.

Hoodlum Circus members John Cassaro and Camille Gladney attend Centenary. You can find the band online at www.myspace.com/hoodlumcircus.

Celebrating Mardi Gras at Centenary

Believe it or not, Mardi Gras is a few short weeks away and we are gearing up for the Highland Parade and Centenary's Annual Family Zone Party on Jones-Rice Field.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 3rd from Noon - 4 if you want to join in the fun on campus. It's a great place to be when the parade rolls by.

Interested in riding on the Centenary float? A few spots are still open. For more information, contact Alumni Chapter President Angie White '93 at angelalynnwhite@comcast.net

Have any beads and/or other throws to contribute to the float? Please bring them to the Alumni Relations Office in 2910 Centenary Blvd.
We'd love to have whatever you can spare.

Need more details about the day?
Contact Carla at calsando@centenary.edu

Untimely death of actor Heath Ledger shocks the public

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

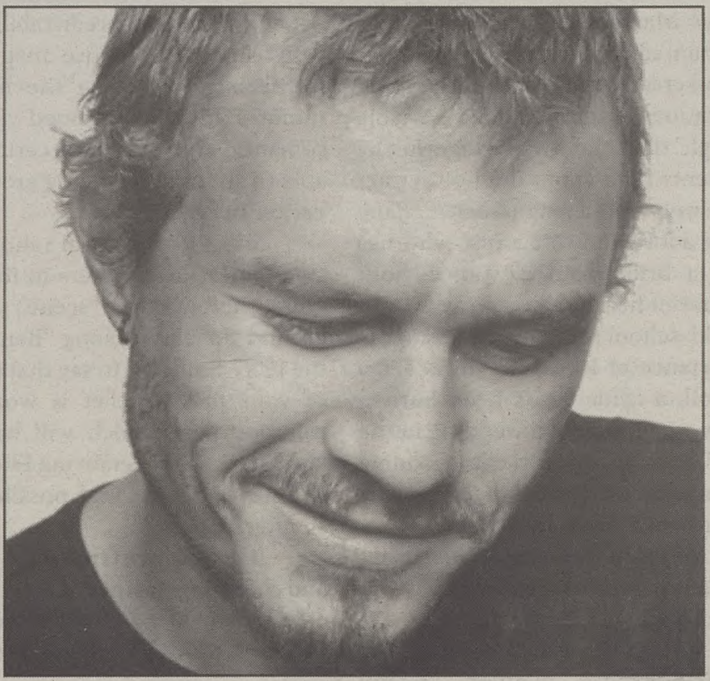
Actor Heath Ledger, 28 years old, was found dead in a Manhattan apartment on Tuesday afternoon. An autopsy conducted on Wednesday yielded inconclusive results.

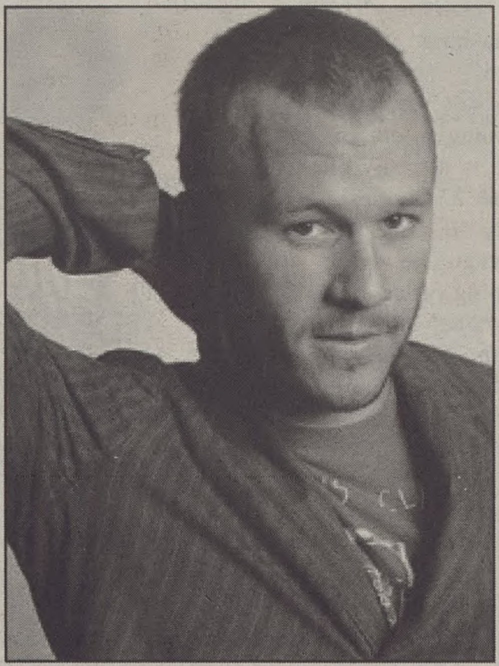
In the news surrounding his death – which was broken barely an hour after he passed away – many contradictory reports emerged. First, it was reported that sleeping pills were scattered around his unconscious body, which later proved to be false. Then it was reported by The New York Times that the apartment Ledger was in was owned/inhabited by Mary-Kate Olsen, which also later turned out to be false. However, news reports that broke early on Thursday morning quoting a detailed police report said that the massage therapist who found Ledger made her first call to Mary-Kate – before even calling the paramedics.

The facts, according to the police, are that Ledger was found face down and unconscious in his bed when his masseuse attempted to rouse him for an appointment. Prescription medicine, including sleeping pills, was found on the bedside table, and a rolled-up $20 bill was tested for drug residue – and came back negative. According to AP reports, authorities found six types of prescription drugs in the apartment, including some to treat insomnia and anxiety, as well as an antihistamine. Three of the prescriptions came from Europe; Ledger had been filming in London just weeks previously.

Massage therapist Diana Wolozin told police that she knew Olsen and Ledger were friends, and called her from his cell phone to ask for advice on what to do next. Olsen, who was in California at the time, reportedly said she would send over private security guards (who later arrived at about the same time as the paramedics).

Police also stated that they did not suspect foul play and found no note that could indicate suicide. According to CNN.com, Ledger's family stated that his death was "very tragic, untimely and accidental." Ledger's father, mother, and sister made their statements to reporters in Perth, Australia, where he was born.





After Wednesday's autopsy, a spokeswoman for a medical examiner said that "a cause-of-death determination will take 10 to 14 days." Still, President Bush cancelled an event scheduled for the launch of a public-service ad campaign about the dangers of prescription drug abuse. White House spokeswoman Dana Perino told CNN that Bush did not want to "run the risk of anyone thinking that we were being opportunistic in highlighting the issue." Again, no definitive cause of death has been stated, but the police are calling it a "possible drug overdose." Early reports about Ledger's death said that emergency medical personnel were responding to a cardiac arrest call at the apartment.

The media has jumped on his portrayal of The Joker in "The Dark Knight," the sequel to "Batman Begins," which is slated for release this July. While fellow actor and Batman star Michael Caine has said that Ledger made the character frightening and Christopher Nolan cited how deeply he went into the role, the press has repeatedly quoted an interview Ledger did with The New York Times in which he spoke about how the character was affecting him.

He said he slept an average of two hours a night one week because he "couldn't stop thinking" about The Joker, a character who he described as a "psychopathic, mass-murdering, schizophrenic clown with zero empathy," according to CNN.com. What most media pundits have highlighted, however, is the suggestion that he was on prescription sleeping pills in order to overcome the problem – he told the Associated Press that they were not helping.

Ledger became a teen star after his breakout role in 1999's "10 Things I Hate About You," the modern take on Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew" in which he co-stars with Julia Stiles. After the success of that film, however, Ledger spent a year rejecting more offers for teen romantic comedies, unwilling to be typecast. He grasped the chance to be in the serious period drama "The Patriot" in 2000, in which he plays Mel Gibson's son and shows his real talent at acting. After that came a starring role in "A Knight's Tale" and a dark supporting role in "Monster's Ball," as well as turns in "The Four Feathers," "Ned Kelly," and "The Order" through 2003, and the lead role in "Casanova" in 2005.

Perhaps his most notable role – certainly what seems to be his most remembered – is that of Ennis Del Mar in 2005's "Brokeback Mountain," in which he plays the tortured, lone cowboy with conflicting feelings about his homosexuality opposite Jake Gyllenhaal. He received an Oscar nod for Best Actor for the movie and won the Australian Film Institute's International Award for the same. His quietly moving performance of Ennis was deeply resonant with many viewers, even leading the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation to state that it "changed hearts and minds in immeasurable ways."

Ledger was filming "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus" at the time of his death, his second film with Terry Gilliam after "The Brothers Grimm."

He is survived by his two-year-old daughter, Matilda Rose. Her mother is Ledger's former fiancé actress Michelle Williams.

Top photo from Rolling Stone, bottom photo from Publishers' Weekly.

"27 Dresses" provides comedy without clichés

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

"27 Dresses" achieves that ideal feat so rare for a romantic comedy: a running time of one hour and 47 minutes and a distinct lack of corny moments, all the while providing real laugh-out-loud moments.

Now, the amount of corny moments may be up for debate depending upon the viewer's level of testosterone (indeed, the two red-blooded males watching it with us termed the movie "okay" in contrast to my sister's and my opinion of "let's watch it again – right now!"), but it's still significantly less than most run-of-the-mill romantic comedies. I enjoy my "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days" and "Never Been Kissed" as much as the next softie, but they definitely contain cringeworthy moments. My favorite part of "27 Dresses," besides the real hilarity it offers, was the fact that it didn't have me sitting in the cinema feeling awkward. Example: Kate Hudson's "You're So Vain" performance in "How to Lose a Guy..." and every other emotional, tearful speech by Drew Barrymore in "Never Been Kissed" constitute acting that cannot be tolerated, no matter how dreamy Matthew McConaughey or Michael Vartan is.

Jane (Katherine Heigl of "Grey's Anatomy" or "Knocked Up"), however, is virtually never annoying or embarrassing, a real accomplishment in itself because her character of Izzie on "Grey's" is a source of great and constant personal irritation. Her evolution as a character over the course of the movie is convincing, because she learns lessons the difficult way and actually and visibly changes. Unsurprisingly, the endearing Jane – though sometimes frustratingly spineless in the first half of the film – has everyone rooting for her happy ending.

Judy Greer fills her usual role as the close friend of the damsel in distress, but her acting is memorable and refreshing this time around. Though she has filled the shoes of the bitchier and thus more amusing sidekick in the likes of "The Wedding Planner" and "13 Going on 30," her turn as the plucky Casey in this film provides some of the most entertaining moments – not least of which is when she literally has to slap Jane back into reality.

Jane and Kevin/Malcolm Doyle (James Marsden of "Hairspray" and "Enchanted") have great chemistry as an on-screen couple; their interaction is flirtatious, entertaining, and enviable enough that the two cringeworthy moments I did count did not detract from my overall enjoyment. Jane is the adorable protagonist who has been a bridesmaid 27 times, both because of her inability to say no and her old-school romantic beliefs in the importance of love. Kevin is 100% her foil, a cynic who's been burned by his own fiasco of a wedding in the past, doomed to writing wedding announcements only because his editor firmly keeps him there.

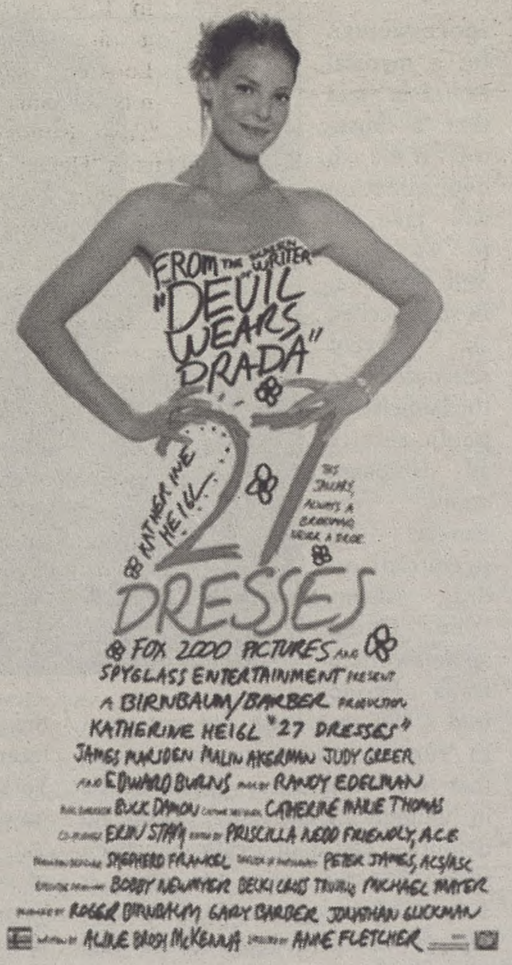
Marsden has shown his talent and versatility over the years, from the brooding Cyclops in the "X-Men" trilogy to the handsome and understandably popular Corny Collins who stands up for minorities in "Hairspray" to the goofy, dashing prince in "Enchanted." Kevin's persistent pursuit of Jane borders on being a creepy stalker, but he is just shy of the line – as one "27 Dresses"-lovin' fan said, "If that was almost any other guy, he would have a restraining order. But he was just so cute!" Physical appeal aside (and Marsden is appealing, with his deep blue eyes and his unforgettable smile), it is his acting that makes him "so cute!" Here, he proves his worth as a leading man, one who is alternately charming and funny as well as believably hurting from past pain.

The supporting characters of Tess, Jane's younger, blonde sister who gets engaged in about five seconds flat, and George, Jane's stud of a boss who commands her attention, are respectively played by Malin Akerman and Edward Burns with considerably less talent. Whether it's the actors or the characters who are flat in this case is hard to tell, but they don't really detract from the movie – they just don't contribute to it much.

The only other negative aspect of this movie is its predictability. You won't know the entire map of the movie after watching the first five minutes, but the seasoned viewer of romantic comedies will certainly be able to see drama coming around the corner in certain parts.

Still, it's original enough to stand apart from others in its genre. One noteworthy scene centers around the classic song "Bennie and the Jets." Suffice it to say that the cost of your movie ticket is worth just this one part, which will have you giggling nonstop, enjoying Elton John like never before, and possibly even singing along.

It's well-written, witty, funny, and charming – forget your significant other (or your potential future one); this movie provides the perfect date.


FROM THE WRITER
"DEVIL WEARS PRADA"
KATHERINE HEIGL
27
DRESSES
FOX 2000 PICTURES AND
SPYGLASS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT
A BIRNBAUM/BARBER PRODUCTION
KATHERINE HEIGL "27 DRESSES"
JAMES MARSDEN MALIN AKERMAN JUDY GREER
AND EDWARD BURNS RANDY EDELMAN
BUCK DAMON CATHERINE MARIE THOMAS
ERIN STAM PRISCILLA NEDD FRIENDLY, A.C.E.
SHEPHERD FRANKEL PETER JAMES, ACS/ASC
BOBBY NEWMYER BECKI CROSS TRUJILLO MICHAEL MAYER
ROGER BIRNBAUM GARY BARBER JONATHAN GLICKMAN
ALINE BROSH McKENNA ANNE FLETCHER

MOVIE TIMES

Select times at Tinseltown on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

"27 Dresses"
1:40, 4:25, 7:05, 9:40

"Cloverfield"
2:20, 3:30, 4:40, 5:50, 7:00, 8:10, 9:20, 10:30

"The Great Debaters" (filmed in Shreveport and Mansfield, Louisiana)
8:15

New in theaters this weekend:
"Meet the Spartans"
"Rambo"
"Untraceable"
"How She Move"
"Michael Clayton" (re-release)

TOP 10 AT THE BOX OFFICE:

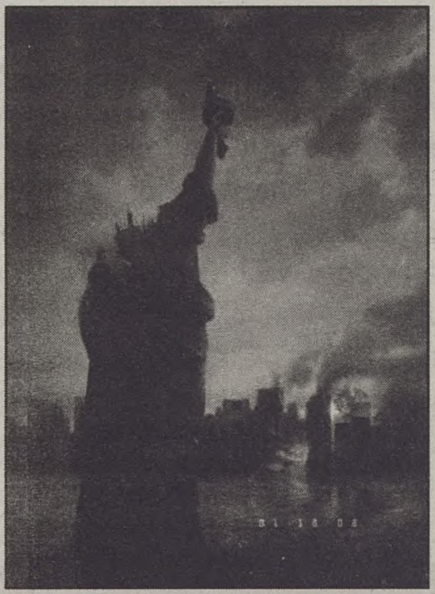
1. "Cloverfield"
2. "27 Dresses"
3. "The Bucket List"
4. "Juno"
5. "National Treasure: Book of Secrets"
6. "First Sunday"
7. "Alvin and the Chipmunks"
8. "Mad Money" (filmed in Shreveport)
9. "I Am Legend"
10. "Atonement"

"Cloverfield": monster movie proves to be a monster hit

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

I have never been the biggest monster movie fan. By monster movies, I mean movies with gigantic monsters that trash cities because they can (i.e. Godzilla). I have never been the biggest fan of "Godzilla" (I quit watching it when I was eight). The only giant monster I ever liked was King Kong.

Well, that changed the other day when I saw a monster that could make King Kong and Godzilla scream uncle while still managing to devour a few hundred people in the process. The monster does not have a name. All I know is that he shows up in the movie "Cloverfield" and lays waste to New York City in a big way.



The movie is told from the unique perspective of a handheld camera. One single camera throughout the entire film. In fact, the title of the film refers to the code name the tape is given by the military after it was found in an area formerly known as Central Park.

Anyway, through this camera, we meet our main characters Rob (Michael Stahl-David), Beth (Odette Yustman), Lily (Jessica Lucas), Marlena (Lizzy Caplan), Jason (Mike Vogel), and our cameraman Hud (T.J. Miller). They are all young twentysomethings from New York, obviously. During the night of a party for Rob, who is leaving for a new job in Japan, a large lizard-like monster attacks the city and they are forced to try and survive the night and escape the path of the monster.

This movie takes its time to set up the characters and let you get to know them during the party. Basically the first 15 minutes of this very short movie (86 minutes) is spent on developing characters. And then the attack begins with an earthquake. From there on out, the movie is one very intense ride that rarely pauses to breathe and leaves you drained by the end.

By using this handheld camera technique, the audience becomes part of the action with the characters. This helps them get into the movie more than usual. While it is a little jarring at first, I became adjusted to the style and I never really noticed it throughout the rest of the movie.

The monster in this movie is a sight to see. Looking like a mix of Sin from "Final Fantasy X" and the Sammael from "Hellboy," this is big, nasty, and hungry. He drops little monsters that eat people and sometimes cause them, in one very gruesome sequence, to explode. The special effects are simply amazing, especially once you realize this movie was made for the same amount of money that Will Smith got paid to star in "I Am Legend."

A word of warning, though: This movie is not for people who get motion-sickness easily (as the camera shakes quite a bit) or for people who like endings that are neat and tidy. In fact, it is safe to say that the movie really doesn't have an ending. It just stops. However, this was expected given the format of the storytelling.

However, if you want a very intense, sometimes scary, and extremely entertaining monster movie, "Cloverfield" is definitely the way to go. Here is hoping that they make a companion movie told from the perspective of the military or something.

Opinion: And the Golden Globe goes to...who?

Sam Ortiz
Staff Writer

And the Golden Globe goes to... who the hell knows? I'd be astonished if too many people besides me made it through the pallid and seemingly never-ending hour-long press conference to even hear the winners announced.

A year such as this one has been especially psychologically damaging to people like me all across America. First, half of Broadway is MIA due to striking, and now Hollywood has been hit hard with this damaging affliction.

I won't lie to you, when I heard the Golden Globes Ceremony wasn't going to happen I was mortified. This time of year is what I live for. Oh, but don't you fret, our favorite corner-cutting, money-hoarding big-wigs were there to provide us with a "boss!"* solution -- air the Globes in a 60-minute presentation and hire two unknowns to present them. (*This is a reference to "Juno," for the five of you who haven't seen it yet.) It felt like watching the Caddo School Board Award Ceremonies I had to attend as a kid, and we all know how riveting those can be.

It's quite an exciting time for an actor. Congrats, Marion Cotillard! Before, nobody knew your name, and now you've received your first nomination and win! Oh, wait, people still don't know your name. I'm sorry; at least the trophy will accent your drawing room beautifully.

She's not alone. After years of being overlooked, Johnny Depp finally gets the respect and attention he deserves, but Murphy's Law, right...too bad it had to be this year.

This may seem like a crazy idea, but it seems to me that a program designed to honor the artists-- for your information writers, that means you too -- should have been given a ton more consideration than this.

Though there is light in the tunnel; it's so heartwarming to see some of my favorite actors putting themselves in the picket line for the writers (Katherine Heigl, Tina Fey, etc.). So far no mention of a star volunteering to take a slight pay cut in order to benefit the writers' salary increase, but maybe that's asking a little too much.

I'm just crossing my fingers that by some divine miracle this all gets taken care of "with all deliberate speed." My heart sank into the pit of my stomach when I heard the Oscars might not happen. I await that Sunday awards show like it's the Super Bowl or LSU playing in the BCS title game. It has to happen, right? Everyone is feeling the ramifications of this strike and it is high time it ended (maybe in time for the Oscars? Please?).

Just do me a favor. If you do nothing else, read over the list of winners once or twice because they deserve at least that. Oh, and Ms. Cotillard's agents can reward me appropriately for that name drop anytime they feel ready.

Learning Lab Schedule

Writing Lab
Sun-Thur 8-10 pm

Learning Labs (various subjects available)
Sun-Thurs 6-9 pm

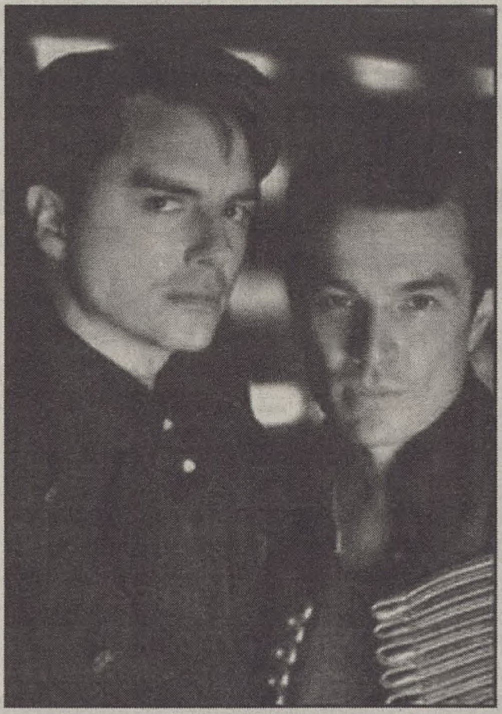
The labs should be opening starting on the 23rd.

TV spotlight: "Torchwood" and The Screen Actors Guild awards are must-sees this weekend

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

-Saturday, January 26, 8:00 pm
Channel: BBC America
Show: "Torchwood"

Why it's important: This is the premiere of the second season of "Torchwood," the award-winning (and rating-record-breaking), edgy, supernatural television show from across the pond. The most popular show on BBC America, it has already premiered in the UK to rapturous reviews. While the label of sci-fi turns off some people, the show presents more than enough reasons for non-Trekkies to watch: the handsome and deliciously naughty bisexual Captain Jack Harkness, played by the handsome and deliciously naughty gay Scottish-American actor John Barrowman; the often-contradictory personality of Gwen, played by breakout star Eve Myles (even if her Welsh accent is sometimes annoying, the evolution of her character is fascinating); and the often clever, always brilliant scriptwriting of the likes of Russell T. Davies, responsible for the genius that is the modern "Doctor Who." That said, this is a must-see for any "Doctor Who" fan, and not just because of the presence of Captain Jack (a recurring character on both shows). Series Three companion Martha Jones will make several appearances on this season of "Torchwood," making the show the crossover-fan's complete dream. If you haven't been busy watching all of Series Three of "Doctor Who" on the internet, the American broadcast of those episodes also begins this Saturday, and those who need to catch up on "Torchwood" so far can enjoy the DVD which was just released this Tuesday. Still skeptical? Here's a fun tidbit: James Marsters, known in "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" circles as the beloved Spike, will be on the premiere (and even share a steamy kiss with Captain Jack).



-Sunday, January 27, 7:00 pm
Channel: TNT and TBS
Show: The Screen Actors Guild Awards (live)

Why it's important: Those of us who craved the movie awards season – Golden Globes one Sunday night, Oscars another one, and clips from all the wonderful films we've spent our hard-earned money on in between (not to mention our favorite stars in the most glamorous outfits) – have been shafted by the ongoing writers' strike. The Golden Globes didn't happen, and though nominations were released Tuesday, a perilous shadow of doubt has been cast over the Oscars.

cont. on next page

Take a mission trip to Mexico

If you are interested in going on the Spring Mission Trip to Mexico, March 14-19, please plan on attending the information meeting Wednesday, Jan. 30 at 6pm in the Smith Building Room 203. There are a limited number of spaces available for this trip. A $35 deposit can be made at Wednesday's meeting which will be put toward the cost of the trip. Registration deadline is Friday, February 15th. The total cost for the trip is $600. There will be scholarships to cover half of the cost so each participant will be responsible for paying $300. Fundraising options to help cover the $300 that you are responsible for will be discussed at the meeting. Please contact Laura Canfield if you have any questions at lcanfiel@centenary.edu or call 318.869.5280.

Vote now!

Log in at https://secure.centenary.edu/login/

Please submit your nominations by Friday, February 1, 2008. Faculty members who have served at Centenary College for five years or longer are eligible. In your nomination message, please provide reasons why your nominee should be considered an outstanding teacher. Consider teaching ability, excellence in advising, College service, mentoring ability, and campus leadership in your evaluation.

A committee of student members selects a deserving recipient. We will announce the award at the Founders' Day activities on February 21, 2008. Please carefully consider your teachers and colleagues and submit persuasive nominations.

TV spotlight: what to watch this weekend, cont. from page 14

Luckily, the Writers Guild of America granted the Screen Actors Guild a waiver which allowed a union writer to script remarks for awards presenters (which include John Travolta, Russell Crowe, Steve Carell, Tina Fey, and Kate Hudson). This ceremony received the waiver that was denied to both the Golden Globes and (thus far) the Oscars because the Screen Actors Guild is publicly supportive of the striking writers. The award ceremony will take center stage this year as the only one to actually be attended by Hollywood stars and not picketed by the writers. As the award show "where only actors vote for actors," the evening should be both surprising and entertaining.

Pictured on page 14, left side: John Barrowman plays Captain Jack Harkness, the leader on "Torchwood," while James Marsters makes a guest appearance on the second season premiere as Captain John. (Hotties.) Marsters is best known for playing Spike in the "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" series. Photo from doctorwhonews.com.

THE OSCARS LIVE FEBRUARY 24TH 5PT/8ET

ACTOR -- LEADING
○ George Clooney - MICHAEL CLAYTON
○ Daniel Day-Lewis - THERE WILL BE BLOOD
○ Johnny Depp - SWEENEY TODD THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET
○ Tommy Lee Jones - IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH
○ Viggo Mortensen - EASTERN PROMISES

ACTOR -- SUPPORTING
○ Casey Affleck - THE ASSASSINATION OF JESSE JAMES BY THE COWARD ROBERT FORD
○ Javier Bardem - NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
○ Philip Seymour Hoffman - CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR
○ Hal Holbrook - INTO THE WILD
○ Tom Wilkinson - MICHAEL CLAYTON

ACTRESS -- LEADIN G
○ Cate Blanchett - ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE
○ Julie Christie - AWAY FROM HER
○ Marion Cotillard - LA VIE EN ROSE
○ Laura Linney - THE SAVAGES
○ Ellen Page - JUNO

ACTRESS -- SUPPORTING
○ Cate Blanchett - I'M NOT THERE
○ Ruby Dee - AMERICAN GANGSTER
○ Saoirse Ronan - ATONEMENT
○ Amy Ryan - GONE BABY GONE
○ Tilda Swinton - MICHAEL CLAYTON

ANIMATED FEATURE
○ PERSEPOLIS
○ RATATOUILLE
○ SURF'S UP

ART DIRECTION
○ AMERICAN GANGSTER
○ ATONEMENT
○ THE GOLDEN COMPASS
○ SWEENEY TODD THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET
○ THERE WILL BE BLOOD

CINEMATOGRAPHY
○ THE ASSASSINATION OF JESSE JAMES BY THE COWARD ROBERT FORD
○ ATONEMENT
○ THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY
○ NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
○ THERE WILL BE BLOOD

COSTUME DESIGN
○ ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
○ ATONEMENT
○ ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE
○ LA VIE EN ROSE
○ SWEENEY TODD THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

DIRECTING
○ THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY
○ JUNO
○ MICHAEL CLAYTON
○ NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
○ THERE WILL BE BLOOD

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE
○ NO END IN SIGHT
○ OPERATION HOMECOMING: WRITING THE WARTIME EXPERIENCE
○ SICKO
○ TAXI TO THE DARK SIDE
○ WAR/DANCE

DOCUMENTARY SHORT
○ FREEHELD
○ LA CORONA (THE CROWN)
○ SALIM BABA
○ SARI'S MOTHER

FILM EDITING
○ THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
○ THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY
○ INTO THE WILD
○ NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
○ THERE WILL BE BLOOD

FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM
○ BEAUFORT
○ THE COUNTERFEITERS
○ KATYN
○ MONGOL
○ 12

MAKEUP
○ LA VIE EN ROSE
○ NORBIT
○ PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END

ORIGINAL SCORE
○ ATONEMENT
○ THE KITE RUNNER
○ MICHAEL CLAYTON
○ RATATOUILLE
○ 3:10 TO YUMA

ORIGINAL SONG
○ "Falling Slowly" - ONCE
○ "Happy Working Song" - ENCHANTED
○ "Raise It Up" - AUGUST RUSH
○ "So Close" - ENCHANTED
○ "That's How You Know" - ENCHANTED

BEST PICTURE
○ ATONEMENT
○ JUNO
○ MICHAEL CLAYTON
○ NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
○ THERE WILL BE BLOOD

SHORT FILM -- ANIMATED
○ I MET THE WALRUS
○ MADAME TUTLI-PUTLI
○ MÊME LES PIGEONS VONT AU PARADIS (EVEN PIGEONS GO TO HEAVEN)
○ MY LOVE (MOYA LYUBOV)
○ PETER & THE WOLF

SHORT FILM -- LIVE ACTION
○ AT NIGHT
○ IL SUPPLENTE (THE SUBSTITUTE)
○ LE MOZART DES PICKPOCKETS (THE MOZART OF PICKPOCKETS)
○ TANGHI ARGENTINI
○ THE TONTO WOMAN

SOUND EDITING
○ THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
○ NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
○ RATATOUILLE
○ THERE WILL BE BLOOD
○ TRANSFORMERS

SOUND MIXING
○ THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
○ NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
○ RATATOUILLE
○ 3:10 TO YUMA
○ TRANSFORMERS

VISUAL EFFECTS
○ THE GOLDEN COMPASS
○ PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END
○ TRANSFORMERS

SCREENPLAY -- ADAPTED
○ ATONEMENT
○ AWAY FROM HER
○ THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY
○ NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
○ THERE WILL BE BLOOD

SCREENPLAY -- ORIGINAL
○ JUNO
○ LARS AND THE REAL GIRL
○ MICHAEL CLAYTON
○ RATATOUILLE
○ THE SAVAGES

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Total Number of Categories Correct: ______________

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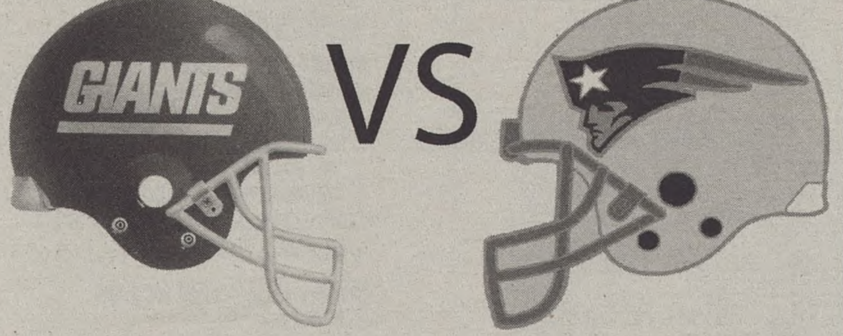
SPORTS



Super Bowl coach evaluation

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

As the 42nd Super Bowl quickly approaches, we have now come to a time of evaluation -evaluation of two talented teams that are both skilled in various different areas. A perfect New England Patriots season is hard to argue with when it comes to the question of skill. Possibly one of the deadliest combos (Tom Brady and Randy Moss) has been nothing less than legendary as it rocked the entire AFC to its core this season. On the other hand, you have the rather youthful and surprising team–New York Giants–that is ready to give its 18-0 opponent a run for its perfect season. Eli Manning, who at one point of the season had fewer fantasy points than any other QB, has proven that he means business this season. You know all the jazz about the players and who the star match-ups on the field are going to be, so what about on the sidelines? Coaches Bill Belichick and Tom Coughlin are very respected in the NFL by other coaches. Here are some of the things they will have to work on to bring their teams to the National Championship.

The New England Patriots

Bill Belichick and offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels are masters of the match-up game and will attack the Giants' weaknesses. Brady will be coached to use quick slants and crossing routes. Giants defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo, knowing his players can't defend Brady with top-notch coverage, will rely on the pass rush of Strahan and Umenyiora. Spagnuolo also will employ multiple zone blitzes to try to force Brady to hold the ball until the pass rush gets to him. The Giants will send pressure up the middle to try to take away Brady's step-up lane and flush him out of the pocket. However, McDaniels can counter with quick passes, screens, and shotgun formations to keep Brady upright.

The New York Giants

Offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride has done a good job of getting Manning to manage the game and make the most of his opportunities off play-action. Expect Gilbride to keep things simple. He'll make sure Manning is focused on his presnap reads and recognizes the many blitz looks the Patriots will use out of their 3-4 front. OLBs Thomas and Mike Vrabel will line up all over the field, and they do a good job of faking the blitz and dropping into coverage. With Harrison playing predominantly in the box, the Pats will be able to send either Vrabel or Thomas off the edge while crashing their ends inside to create one-on-one mismatches. Gilbride and Coach Tom Coughlin will counter by limiting Manning's pass attempts and focusing on the running game.

Information gathered from www.sportingnews.com.

Jarboe Jabber: Olympic events that will probably never make it

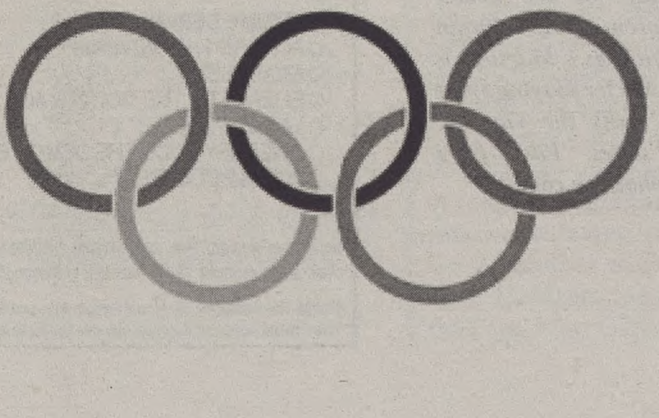
Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

As the 2008 Beijing Olympics quickly approach us, I can't help but to think how there is no way I will ever get to compete in any of the events. I just don't think it's possible. These Herculean heroes and heroines work and focus their entire lives, devoted to one individual practice. How does one honestly do that, I ask? As for me, I would consider myself an all-around kind of guy. I never really focused all my attention on one sport in order to compete at a world-wide level. So, what if I did? What if with the activities I love to do they made an Olympic event. Ladies and Gentlemen, in the world of *Jarboe Jabber,* anything could happen.

What if eating macaroni and cheese was an Olympic sport? Come on, think about it. You'd line up all your different competitors with spoons, set in front of them each a vat of the cheesiest macaroni and cheese you can think of, have a time set for two hours and go! The end result would not be pretty, but consider the hype of this sport. If you had any kind of stock in Kraft you'd be rocking and rolling (take that Microsoft). Athletes would have signature spoons that little boys and girls would save up their money from mowing the lawn to purchase and show off in front of their friends. Constipation would be at an all-time high. It would be paradise! Okay, maybe my love for macaroni would not make it to the list. Still, you can't say the idea was that cheesy (I know, I'm good).

What if playing Madden on Xbox was an Olympic sport? What a dream. There would always be a game to play with your friend (that one friend that still really wants to be that full-time video game master and still wears his letterman jacket in public places and wants you to sleep over creepily when you come back home from college–we all have one). Carpal tunnel would be a commonality. People who were really into it would have belts around their waists carrying two fresh controllers just in case the ones they were currently using jammed. Of course, this is for a total nerd, and if I ever see anyone on campus with that I will honestly set your pants on fire, * reaches down and tightens controller holder around his waist*.

Well, it looks as if none of my ideas would really work very well. I will just have to deal with watching the Olympics from the comfort of my couch in my dorm room for the rest of my life. I challenge you today, children of the world. Go out and work toward having one of your passions or talents created into an Olympic event that we all may watch from Beijing. Live the dream, baby. Live the dream.



The Conglomerate presents: The life of a Centenary athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

It's softball season and time to meet the team....

After a week back to the basics of school and softball, I have found myself immersed amongst the ever-so-strenuous load of being a collegiate student-athlete. Our team kicked off the season with a "bonding" day two days before the rest of the student body unpacked their belongings from the Christmas holidays. Awaiting the season to begin seems to be the most difficult part of this time of the year. With only about a week or so left until our first game, our preparation has not let up. From six a.m. morning workouts to the three-hour practices every night—we are ready to begin.

So, school has started back.... and the life of no sleep and studying continues to challenge me as I fight the pressure of being successful. Though, I must admit it helps to have a team who is living the same life as I am right now.

The first week back we opened the season with our favorite of all drills. Wet and muddy, we pushed through the 26-minute drill only to experience a week or so of soreness. We consider ourselves not only athletes, but knowledge athletes at that, so we spend quite a bit of time on mental training and understanding our roles as members of the Centenary Ladies softball team. So, with that, a few hours were spent on building each other's trust and learning more about each of the members of our team since we will spend every waking moment together come two weeks.

Practices have been cold, I have to say, but playing in the Summit League, this is no comparison to the temperatures we face up north. We are just lucky to be on the field this early in January. Throughout these last few weeks, our practices have focused on game-like situations. One day was devoted only to base running. At first we were a little uneasy about the idea of running in frigid temperatures at 9 a.m. in the morning, but honestly it was one of the most productive learning practices this season.

Our team is ready more than ever, I can already tell, for the season to begin. We are anxious and excited to have 14 girls returning from last season and two newcomers who have proven to be a key impact on our team. The fall was successful, but the spring is our season and with only a few weeks until the first pitch, nothing can be more exciting than the feeling of our first win. Our pitchers and catchers are a whole year older and carry a year of experience under their maroon belts, and that alone makes me extremely eager to compete.

I want to take this time to introduce everyone to this year's Ladies softball team, who will represent Centenary College and the Summit League this season, in hopes of bringing home a conference championship.

Seniors:

#2 Lauren Flowers—Centerfielder from San Antonio, TX

#11 Lyn Virdell—2nd baseman from Claremore, OK

#12 Jennifer Martin—Leftfielder from Fort Worth, TX

#22 Amy Wiedeman—Outfielder from Houston, TX

Juniors:

#8 Allison McClain—Utility Infielder from Diboll, TX

#10 Leslie Postles—Outfielder from Shreveport, LA

#14 Emerald Doria—Shortstop from San Antonio, TX

Sophomores:

#6 Haley Bassett—Catcher/3rd baseman from Bossier City, LA

#9 Brittany Williams—1st baseman from Antioch, TN

#15 Ali Shepperd—3rd baseman/catcher from Marshall, TX

#21 Ryan Thacker—Pitcher from Alto, TX

#25 Stacy Whitmer—Pitcher from Henderson, KY

#31 Beth Krysiak—Catcher/3rd baseman from The Woodlands, TX

Freshman:

#3 Bonnie Matak—Outfielder from Richmond, TX

#7 Lauren Highsmith—Pitcher from Houston, TX

#16 Caitlin Cavarra—Utility from Brentwood, TN

Coaches:

Head Coach: Mark Montgomery

Assistant: Lyndsey Angus

Assistant: Dan Moreman

We open the season with a day of scrimmages against local rival BPCC on Saturday, February 2, and then kick off our official season by traveling to Texarkana on February 8 to face Oklahoma State, UAB, and Arkansas. Just stay tuned for weekly updates on our season from yours truly and come out and support us at the Centenary Softball Complex.

"I come to play everyday." – David Ortiz, Boston Red Sox

LSU will have five players in Super Bowl

Kat Michiels
Staff Writer

LSU, now with two BCS championships, will have five of its former football players in the Super Bowl when the New England Patriots face off against the New York Giants at Super Bowl XLII.

One former Tiger, cornerback Corey Webster, will don a New York jersey. Joining the still-undefeated Patriots will be cornerback Randall Gay, linebacker Eric Alexander, defensive tackle Jarvis Green, and running back Kevin Faulk.

Green and Faulk have already been to the Super Bowl three times and now claim three victories. Gay and Alexander were both starters on the 2003 BCS championship team.

If you are an LSU fan or are ready to see the Patriots go completely undefeated, make sure to catch the actual Super Bowl on February 3 at 5:30, broadcast live from Phoenix, Arizona, by FOX news station.

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HOMETOWN HEROES!
JANUARY 25th
LIVE FIGHTS!
8PM 318-402-0417
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
RINGRULERS.com
SHREVEPORT MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM BOX OFFICE
98 ROCKS LANDERS
CHRYSLER Jeep
EXTREME FIGHT GEAR
The Times
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CASTLE CREEK
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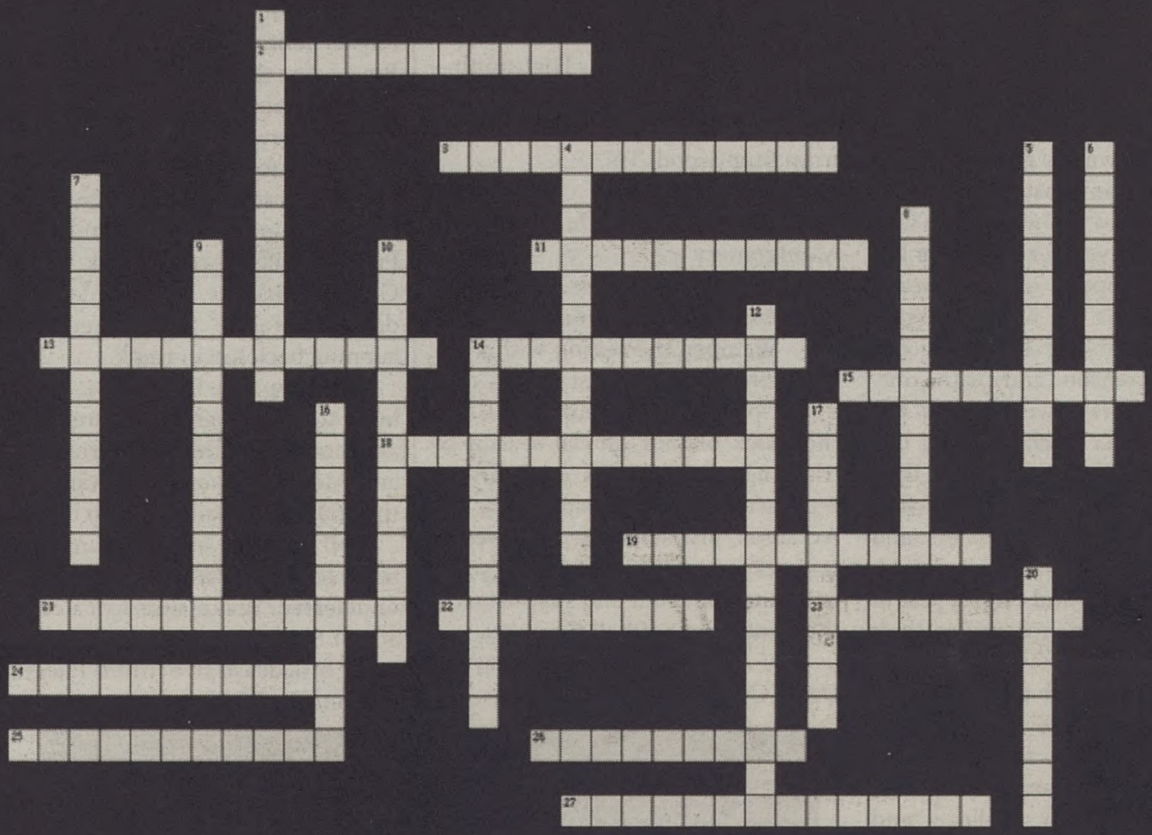
CROSSWORD PUZZLE:
NAME THAT ACTOR



ACROSS
2. Spanglish and Big Daddy
3. Net and Miss Congeniality
11. Face Off and Con Air
13. 50 First Dates and Charlie's Angels
14. Save the Last Dance and Mona Lisa Smile
15. Pulp Fiction and Kill Bill
18. Batman Begins and 3:10 to Yuma
19. Marie Antoinette and Spiderman
21. Spiderman and Seabiscuit
22. Without a Paddle and Can't Hardly Wait
23. G.I. Jane and Ghost
24. Elf and Anchorman
25. Speed and The Matrix
26. Bourne Identity and Good Will Hunting
27. Uptown Girls and Sin City

DOWN
1. Italian Job and Planet of the Apes
4. The Birdcage and Good Will Hunting
5. X-men and Gothika
6. Say Anything and Serendipity
7. Pulp Fiction and Face Off
8. X-men and The Prestige
9. Pirates of the Carribean and Elizabethtown
10. Ocean's Eleven and Michael Clayton
12. Legally Blonde and Walk the Line
14. Erin Brockovich and Pretty Woman
16. Die Hard and Pulp Fiction
17. Pirates of the Carribean and Secret Window
20. Ocean's Eleven and Fight Club

Horoscopes

Aquarius (1/21-2/19) I admit, congratulations are in order for your latest accomplishment. Maybe you have a shot in life after all.

Pisces (2/20-3/20) Blah blah blah blah blah.

Aries (3/21-4/20) Find a tire, preferably one on a car, and tie it to a tree, thus making a tire swing. Proceed to romp and play like a five year old. Then abandon your play when you realize you are not five.

Taurus (4/21-5/21) Cold pizza at 3 am does great things for your complexion. Mind you, your waist will never be the same.

Gemini (5/22-6/21) For two ugly people, you sure are cute.

Cancer (6/22-7/23) I would reassure you, but that's not my style. I prefer to rob you of all hope and optimism, forcing you into a depression where you discover that things can only get better. This way, you can arrive at your own optimism.

Leo (7/24-8/23) Your "love life" consists of misunderstood text messages and drunken make-out sessions. Sure, this is no way to find "the one," but it's still fun, right? Right?

Virgo (8/24 –9/23) Your band sounds nothing like Velvet Underground, I'm sorry to break it to you. Quit now before you permanently injure someone's ear drums.

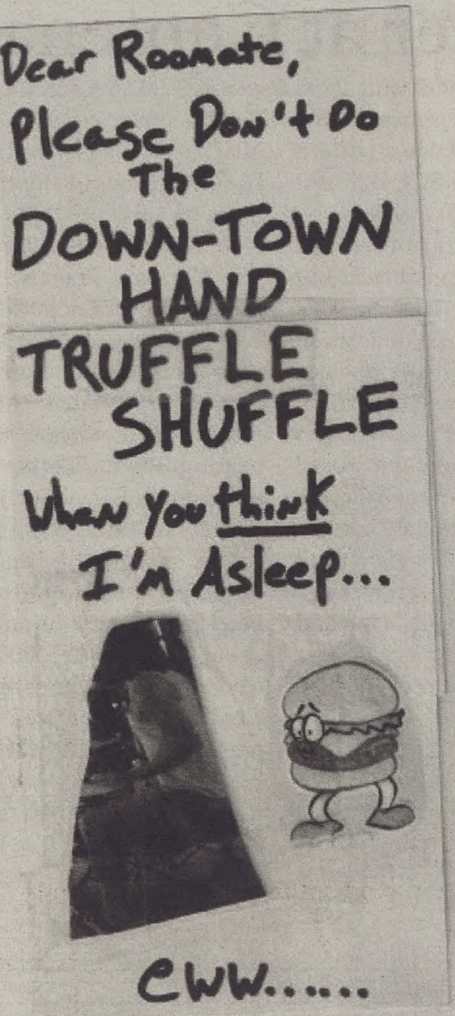
Libra (9/24-10/22) Meow.

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) I don't care what they say: if you have fantasies about breakfast foods, you are not completely sane, and you can throw all your hopes of vegetarianism out the window.

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) I know you hold a candle for that guy/girl in your MWF morning class, but I have to break it to you: they are holding a candle for the guy/girl in their M 2-5 seminar. The heart is a delicate organ.

Capricorn (12/22 –1/20) Last week you were Saggitarius, this week you are Libra.

CENTENARY SECRETS



Dear Roomate,
Please Don't Do
The
DOWN-TOWN
HAND
TRUFFLE
SHUFFLE
When You think
I'm Asleep...

eww......

In order to participate, take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box #786 or slip it under the Conglomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.

CENTENARY CONCERT WIRE

Jan. 25, Friday
Robert Earl Keen
10:30 PM
Billy Bob's Texas
Ft. Worth, TX
$12 GA, $18 reserved
http://wwww.billybobstexas.com
http://www.robertearlkeen.com/

Jan. 25, Friday
Bone Dance, Lands of Mine, and Eves Descent
8 PM @ Harlequin Alley
www.myspace.com/harlequinalley

Jan. 25, Friday
Face Plant, The Crisis, The Blue Eclipse
10 PM @ The Warehouse
www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

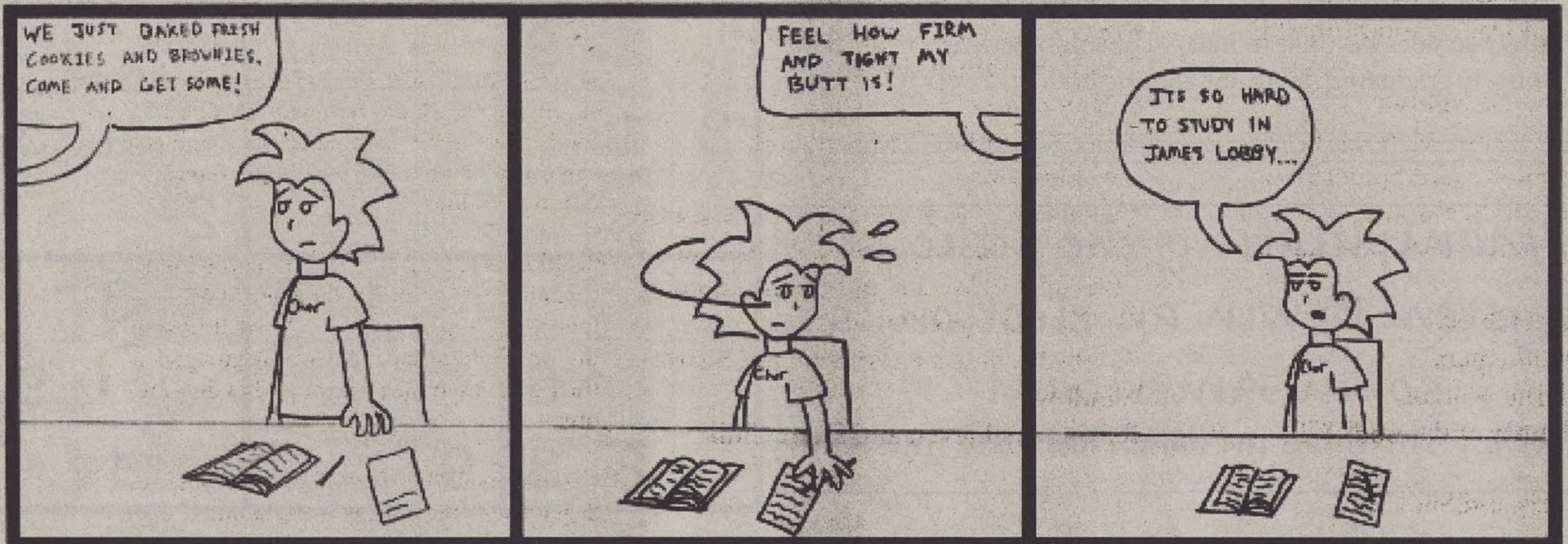
Jan. 26, Saturday
Cory Morrow
Doors open @ 7 PM, Show @ 8
Granada Theater, Dallas, TX
$15 and up
http://www.corymorrow.com/
http://tickets.granadatheater.com/ordertickets.asp?p=765

Jan. 26, Saturday
James McMurtry
...watch the video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTW0y6kazWM
8 PM
Blue Moon Saloon
Lafayette, LA
http://www.jamesmcmurtry.com
http://www.bluemoonpresents.com/index.html

Jan. 26, Saturyday
And, Wellington, Silver City Skyline, Amateur Hour, and Triumphant Return
7 PM @ Harlequin Alley
www.myspace.com/harlequinalley

A Day with Christ

by Chris Christ


WE JUST BAKED FRESH COOKIES AND BROWNIES. COME AND GET SOME!
Chur
FEEL HOW FIRM AND TIGHT MY BUTT IS!
Chur
ITS SO HARD TO STUDY IN JAMES LOBBY...
Chur

Satire: *The Conglomerate* presents criteria for choosing a commencement speaker at Centenary

Amanda Russell
Staff Writer

Upon hearing that J.K. Rowling will speak at Harvard University's Commencement, my initial thoughts were, "I wish someone as cool as J.K. Rowling will speak at Centenary's graduation." Last year, the director of the Center for Leadership Development at ACE in Washington, D.C., spoke. In 2006 the president of Xavier University spoke, and in 2000 former First Lady and wrinkly robot Barbara Bush spoke. Reviewing the list of former commencement speakers encouraged me to come up with a list of criteria I believe "the powers" of Centenary use to choose commencement speakers:

1. Be someone that no one has ever heard of. This is probably the most important criterion. Are you Dr. Madeline Green? Are you Scott Simon? Are you Daniel Goldin? If so, you are a candidate for commencement speaker! Why? Because no one has ever heard of you!

2. Be an obscure Methodist minister. First of all, as a commencement speaker your job is to bring money into the college. So you should not only be a speaker we don't have to pay (or pay very little), your presence should encourage donation. With enrollment wavering and freshly-graduated pissed-off alumni seething, this is looking like an ever-important criterion. Who better to give money to Centenary than the Methodists? This is an institution affiliated with the Methodist Church, after all. You also might be wondering about the obscure part. But can you honestly name more than five ministers of any denomination without using Google?

3. Be an NPR correspondent. Most people don't listen to NPR unless they're highly educated, bored, or high. Some of the students here probably don't even know what NPR is. But that's no problem for Centenary! The 1997 and 2003 commencement speakers were both NPR correspondents. I see a pattern developing. After all, KSCL did host "Philosophy Talk" last semester…

4. Be of an ethnicity other than white. Usually this means black, but it can mean other things as well. Centenary has a strange dedication to pretending its campus is diverse. The most bizarre manifestation of this was when a black student who is not a member of the choir posed as a choir member during the filming of Centenary's commercial. I know Hollywood is all about "faking it until you make it," but there currently is a choir member who is half-black and half-Mexican. That is about as diverse as it gets. Why wasn't he recruited for the commercial?

5. Be ineffective. Most of the commencement speakers are what I will term "ineffective" in the sense that by the time they come to Centenary, if they were famous their star has drastically fallen. For example, NASA administrator Daniel Goldin spoke in 1997, 28 years after Neil Armstrong landed on the moon. Did Goldin go to the moon? Did he bring moon rocks to the Gold Dome? Definitely not. Consider 2006 speaker Dr. Norman Francis, president of Xavier University and leader of the LA Recovery Authority. He spoke nine months after Katrina hit south Louisiana. By that time, everyone from south Louisiana was so sick of hearing about Katrina and no one doing anything about it that we all wanted to catch the Katrina cough. Lastly, consider former First Lady Barbara Bush. He husband was not President at the time and her son was about to steal the 2000 Presidential election. Plus, her appearance at Centenary was well before the premiere of "Little Bush" on Comedy Central.

With these criteria in mind, Centenary should be in for a real treat come May 2008!

ATTENTION

We regret to inform all of our readers that in May of 2007 Nick Rougely graduated from Centenary. The former Conglomerate satirist has moved on to greener pastures. On this note, we regrettably cannot "bring back Nick" despite how often and passionately you, the readers, beg us to do so. The Conglomerate staff appreciates that you enjoyed Nick's witty articles, and surely so does he. Just to make it absolutely clear, Nick Rougely graduated, he is not coming back, get over it.

> "Manipulating the judicial system to win an election is so un-American!"
>
> - Tracy Turnblad in "**HAIRSPRAY**" the musical

Sudoku

	5				7	4	9	
4						6		
	6		3	5				
		9						
3	1						4	5
						2		
				1	6		3	
		6						9
	8	3	9				1	

The CONGLOMERATE

February 1, 2008 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 16

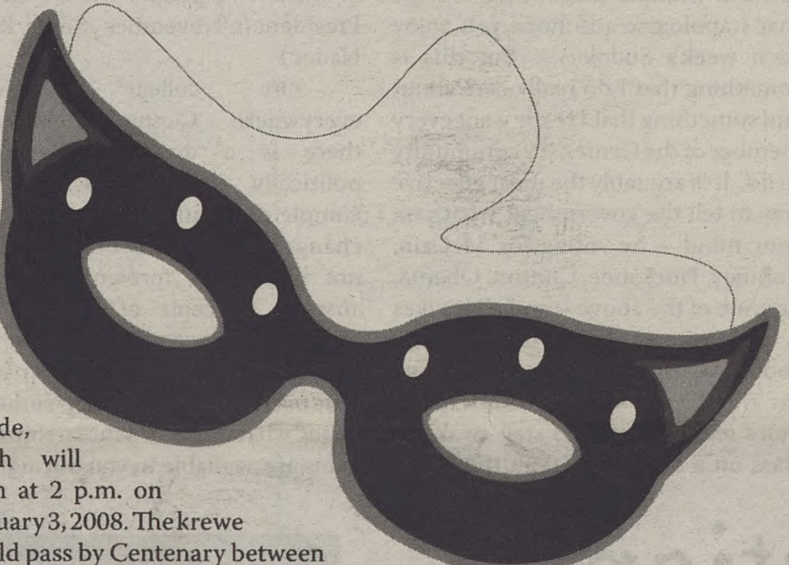
Centenary celebrates Mardi Gras with Highland area community

Amanda Russell
Staff Writer

You know it's that special time of year when bakeries across the state begin producing those gold, green, and purple king cakes. Texas residents attending Centenary sometimes complain about the early break and wonder what all the fuss is about, but those of us native to Louisiana know that it is simply Carnival time.

The Carnival season begins twelve days after Christmas and ends on Mardi Gras, the day before Ash Wednesday. Widely considered to be the most important party in the United States, Mardi Gras or "Fat Tuesday" celebrations also occur in Italy and Brazil. The Mardi Gras season is marked with celebration, parades, krewe balls, and as much debauchery as can be fit into one's schedule before the Lenten season begins.

Although it is far from Louisiana's Mardi Gras epicenter in New Orleans, Shreveport has developed a vibrant Carnival tradition that serves the entertainment as well as economic needs of North Louisiana residents. The Shreveport Times reports that according to a study done by the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureaus and the LSU Shreveport Center for Business and Economic Research, Mardi Gras festivities in Northwest Louisiana generate annual revenue of over $32 million dollars. With 30 krewes in the Northwest Louisiana region, the fun seems to never stop. Naturally, Centenary is ready to get in on the Carnival fun.



As an important part of the Highland Area Community, Centenary sits along the parade route of the Krewe of Highland Mardi Gras parade, which will begin at 2 p.m. on February 3, 2008. The krewe should pass by Centenary between 3 and 3:30 p.m. Centenary College of Louisiana will be represented by a float in the Highland Parade. If any student, faculty, staff, or alum is interested in riding on the float, spots may be reserved for $40 a person (which includes a t-shirt and parade throws). Those interested should contact alumni@centenary.edu for further details.

According to Carla E. Alsandor, Director of Alumni Relations, the Centenary Alumni Association will also host its annual Family Zone program on Jones-Rice Field. The Family Zone provides area residents and members of the Centenary Community with a family-friendly environment in order to better enjoy watching the parade. Centenary will provide free hotdogs, chips, and drinks to those in attendance.

The Centenary Alumni Association encourages those planning to attend to bring lawn chairs, picnic gear, and outdoor games and equipment to further enhance their parade-watching experience. The Family Zone program will run from 12 to 4 p.m. This program has been a well-received event in past years. If you have any further questions, contact Carla E. Alsandor at calsando@centenary.edu or call (318) 869-5008.

INSIDE

What is the Schwab-o-meter? Find out on page 3

SGA spends big bucks on Homecoming, page 5

Big movie stars film in Shreveport, read more on page 14

What's Happening

Vote early for presidential preferences

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Early voting for the Louisiana presidential preference primary started on January 26 and will continue through this Saturday, February 2.

The purpose of the primary is for Louisiana voters to indicate who they would like to see win the nominations of the Republican and Democratic parties (and ultimately, who will take the White House in November). The election is closed, which means only voters registered to those parties can participate, and they can only vote for candidates within their own parties.

Parish Registrar of Voters offices are open all across the state from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day, including Saturday, for those who would like to vote. Those interested only need bring their state driver's license, a state special ID, or some other generally recognized picture ID.

All voters may vote early without any specified reason.

For those at Centenary who are unable to travel home, the last day to request a mail ballot from the Registrar of Voters is Tuesday, February 5. The deadline for the office to receive that ballot back is Friday, February 8.

The actual primary is scheduled for Saturday, February 9.

The Caddo Parish Registrar of Voters office is located at 525 Marshall Street (across from the Caddo Courthouse), Suite 103. The phone number is (318) 226-6891. For more information on registering and voting how-to, please visit www.sos.louisiana.gov or www.geauxvote.com.

Letter from the editor: Vote vote vote vote vote vote

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

I've heard enough people complaining about the top presidential candidates to know that this campus has an opinion. I just have one request (well, other than write in to the paper and tell us how you really feel): vote.

On Super Tuesday, February 5, when a grand total of 22 states will head to the polls to vote for who they want to represent their party, Louisiana will be partying – in true state style, it's Mardi Gras. Super Duper Tuesday can have New York and California; there's no way real Louisianans (also known as Loozeaners) would get up to vote on Fat Tuesday. (There may be no way real Louisianans could get up to vote – hangovers and all.)

Luckily, our government is smarter than they sometimes appear, and the state presidential primary isn't until Saturday, February 9. That's plenty of time to sort out your head, Centenarians – so make sure you know where your parish Registrar of Voters office is and vote.

For those of you who just can't wait, early voting is taking place until this Saturday, February 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You don't even need a valid reason to do it - just your driver's license!

For those of you who don't know, I'm a Political Science major and a news junkie. I know my editorship of this newspaper has led to the Conglomerate covering more politics than it has in the past (I'm proud of it, but trust me, I am aware that some of you find this boring, and for that I apologize and hope you enjoy each week's Sudoku) – but this is something that I do really care about and something that I really want every member of the Centenary community to do. It is arguably the most effective way to tell the government what's on your mind – by voting for McCain, Romney, Huckabee, Clinton, Obama, or none of the above – and all it takes is a short car ride to the registrar, about two minutes inside, and a short car ride back. We probably expend more energy trying to stay awake in class on a daily basis than this small task requires.

Don't let that fool you, however; it might not require much, but it counts for a lot. In today's jaded age, where we look to the debacle that was the 2000 election and wonder how much our vote really counts, the presidential primary is something we can control. Whoever comes out strongest at the end of these primaries and caucuses will likely get the nominations of the Republican and Democratic parties – and in the American political system, one of those two people will be elected President in November. (Sorry, Ralph Nader.)

On college campuses everywhere, Centenary included, there is a divide between the politically impassioned and the completely apathetic – but that can change. Politics affect everyone. It's not just about foreign policy and abstract concepts of freedom and liberty: it's about whether or not your sibling or significant other may be sent over to Iraq in a troop surge; it's about what kinds of scholarships and loans are available to you during your time here, and how much; it's about whether or not you can get and keep a decent-paying job after getting your glorious Centenary degree, and then it's about tax relief; it's about what will happen next time a natural disaster devastates one of our state's most beloved cities. Who the President is matters – his or her decisions echo around the world, nation, state, and this lil' ole town, from the broadest policy on spreading democracy in the world to the littlest detail about how much we pay for a full tank of gas.

More than that, this looks to be an election year when America will make history – electing the first Mormon, female, or African-American President all look like distinct possibilities, something I myself thought was a bit far-fetched at this time last year. But who cares about what history books will say in the future, or about fulfilling your civic duty, or representing the 18-24 group well on the national stage? (We had pretty pitiful turnout in the 2004 election.) Do it for yourself and for how it affects your life. Vote.

Question of the Week

WHAT WOULD YOU DO FOR BEADS??

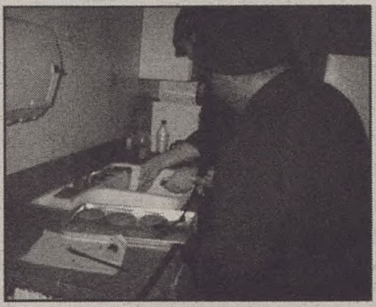
"Drop it like it's hot."
-Stacey Stokes,
Senior

"Rob the float."
-Ashley Sholar,
Senior

"Pretend I'm from Duke."
-Amos Sit,
Junior

"Dirty, sexy sex."
-Jessica Cosenza,
Junior

"Kill a small child."
-Alysha Wallace,
Junior



"Stand there."
-Ms. Kristy Jackson,
Assistant Director of
Residence Life

FEATURES

Centenary faculty and staff bond with nature (literally)

Centenary Environmental Association and Chemistry Club lead "Chains for Change" fundraiser to buy Solar Array

Article and rockin' images by
Dr. Jeanne Hamming

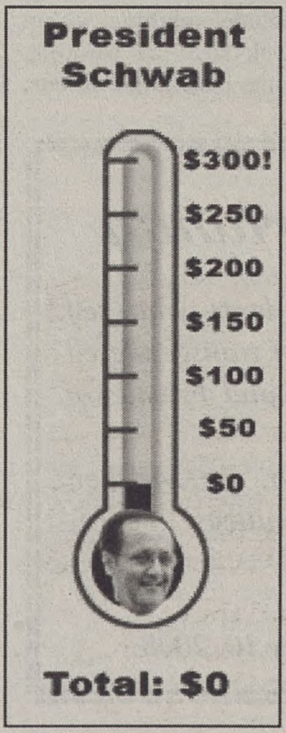
President Schwab a treehugger? No way. Yes way!

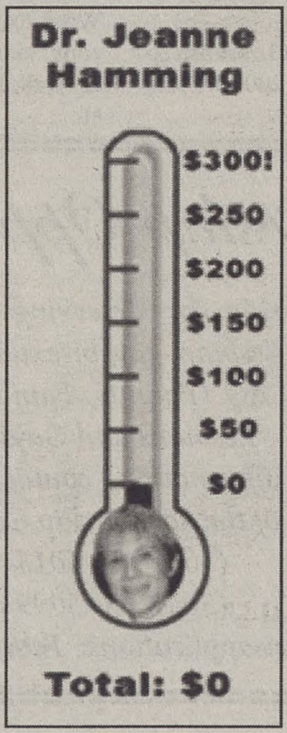
Centenary's Environmental Association and Chemistry Club announce plans to raise funds to install a 720-watt solar array on the roof of Magale Library. The plan: to chain four members of the college's faculty and staff to the oak tree outside of Bynum Commons as an homage to civilly-disobedient environmentalists who chain themselves to trees to prevent deforestation.

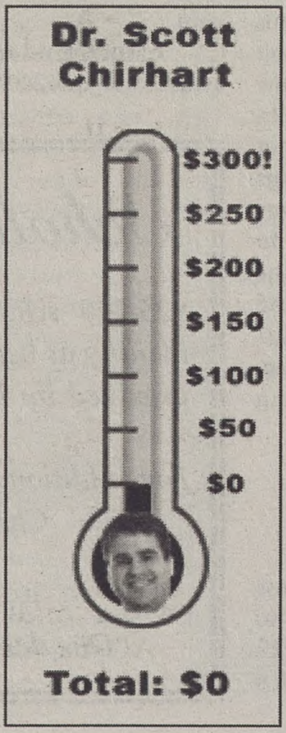
President Ken Schwab, Assistant Dean of Students Kevin Wagner, Dr. Scott Chirhart, and Dr. Jeanne Hamming have agreed to "hug a tree" for thirty minutes on April 22, Earth Day. But they won't do it for free. To witness this "green" spectacle, students will have to pony up the doe--a whopping $300 for each faculty/staff member. To donate, contact any member of the CEA or Chemistry Club, or drop by the offices of our treehugging faculty and staff where donation jars will be available.

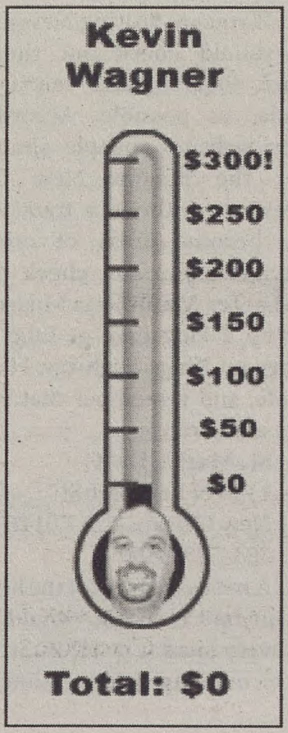
Whereas normally activists hug trees to prevent harm from being done to old-growth forests, these devoted treehuggers will agitate for change in the form of solar energy. When asked to comment on his impending encounter with a tree, Dr. Schwab responded enthusiastically: "I love trees, and besides, everyone needs a hug once in a while." Dr. Chirhart had this to say: "Have you ever wanted to get back at me? Maybe I gave you a bad grade, or I am about to give you a bad grade. Maybe I just give you a hard time. Maybe you don't like the fact that I am so AWESOME! Well now is your time to step up and support a good cause while I chain myself to a tree for your amusement." Kevin Wagner had no comment.

If enough funds are raised, a 720-watt solar array will be installed on the roof of Magale Library. The array will produce 1117 kilowatts per year (93.1 kw/month, 3.1 kw/day). This produces enough energy each day to power 5.5 Desktop computers with printers for 10 hours. More importantly, the solar energy generated from a 720-watt solar array prevents 1,469 pounds of coal from being burned each year, prevents 2,592 pounds of CO2 from being released into the atmosphere each year, and conserves 924 gallons of water each year.









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Opinion: A Midwesterner's view of Mardi Gras (alcohol and beads)

Kari Patterson
Staff Writer

Mardi Gras is certainly an interesting tradition in Louisiana, and until this year it was twice as important as Easter (if importance can be judged by length of breaks). Last year, as a "Yankee," I wanted to try to get a feel for what Mardi Gras is all about without having to risk life, limb, and liver in New Orleans. So, under the wing of a native Louisianan, I ventured forth to Lafayette for a parade. I was advised that I would enjoy the parades there more than in a small-town environment like Berwick, where instead of beads and floats, I would get to watch lawnmowers while catching snorkel gear, McDonald's toys, and Check-into-Cash advertisements. While I'm sure they were amazing McDonald's toys, the Lafayette parade was quite interesting and very different from parades I'd experienced back home.

First of all, it is illegal for anyone to throw anything from parade floats in my hometown, and public drunkenness is not allowed. It was certainly a one-of-a-kind experience to stand next to a completely trashed grandmother who waved her pink fuzzy cowboy hat at the passing floats to get as many plastic beads thrown at her head as possible. Fortunately for me, she kept turning and nearly falling off the chair she was standing on to sling beads around my neck, declaring that I didn't have nearly enough. Apparently she hadn't noticed the twenty thousand strands that I had already accumulated, since having a friend announce to the people on the floats that it was my first Mardi Gras was the equivalent of painting a target on my head. However, I do believe the men standing near me with Osama bin Laden target boards got the most beads of all.

Once the parade had ended and I had my armful of beads, I received conflicting instructions on what to do with them. Passers-by offered advice that ranged from getting a "bead bag" to putting them in a glass vase, but the one thing everyone agreed upon was that under no circumstances was I allowed to throw them away. Plastic beads are semi-precious objects in the world of Mardi Gras, but there was no way I was going to take them home. Every Northerner I know assumes that there's only one way to get beads, and that was not a reputation I wanted. I did the next best thing, though: I gave them to some kids.

After the parade, my "guide" and I went to some kind of fair, where I succumbed to a bit of nostalgia and rode the Ferris wheel--something I hadn't done for about ten years--and was amazed to see that they let people take alcohol on the ride. I commented on the oddity, and a friend explained, "Well, as long as he doesn't jump out, it's okay."

Having now experienced my very first Mardi Gras, I can definitively say that I still don't understand much of it, but it was a lot of fun. Never fear, those three of you at Centenary who have never celebrated Mardi Gras before; if I can survive, so can you! Just keep an open mind and don't judge. Hey, I really don't have room to talk anyways; the highlight of my hometown's festival is seeing who can grow the biggest pumpkin. Louisianans have alcohol and beads at their party, and we have giant squash. I hear that Arkansas is lovely this time of year, though.

Make a difference this Mardi Gras with community service

Jessica Brown
Staff Writer

Finally the time has come to take another wonderful little break from school and celebrate. When people think "Mardi Gras," they often think of king cake, beads, and Bourbon Street. Mardi Gras does encompass these things and so much more.

Mardi Gras is the day before Ash Wednesday, and it celebrates the end of Carnival. The cities best known for their Mardi Gras celebrations are Rio de Janeiro, Venice, and New Orleans. Fortunately for those of us at Centenary, one of the most famous places to celebrate Mardi Gras is just a road trip away.

However, as we all know, the city of New Orleans was devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Even before Katrina and Rita, Louisiana was the second poorest state in the nation. With a median household income $10,000 below the national average, Louisiana felt the pangs of poverty even before the hurricanes struck. However, there is something you can do to help.

Did you know that you can receive free housing in exchange for volunteering in New Orleans? You can aid the poverty-stricken during the morning while getting your late afternoons and evenings free. This is a good deal, but only if you are willing to do the work. Listed below are groups to contact before you get to New Orleans. If you're staying in the Shreveport area, there are soup kitchens and an animal shelter that would love your help. Go ahead and play with dogs for an hour or give someone from the streets a meal. I think you'll find that it will make a world of difference not only to them, but to you as well.

If you are visiting New Orleans, you should check out the intact French Quarter and see as many parades as possible. According to safety websites, people should not enter the famous New Orleans graveyards without a tour, as they have become areas of crime. In Shreveport you can check out the Ark-La-Tex Mardi Gras Museum and pick up a king cake at Julie Anne's Bakery on Kings Highway. Have fun, be safe, and remember that you can make a difference.

St. Mark's UMC
1130 N Rampart St
New Orleans, LA 70116
504-523-0450

A meal is served for the homeless and anyone else who would like to join every Sunday at 11:00. St. Mark's is a reconciling congregation, which means they particularly welcome marginalized groups, such as the GLBT and homeless communities. Contact Anita if you would like to contribute to this service.

Luke's House
2700 Louisiana Ave. (between St. Charles and S. Claiborne)

Free Healthcare Clinic open Tuesdays 6-8 p.m.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Jiselle Bock at 899-3431 or lukeshouseclinic@gmail.com.

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qn4200/is_20071114/ai_n21113938

Yvonne P. Dayries
Volunteer Manager, **UMCOR**
7100 Read Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70126
225-346-5193
laumcstormrelief.org

Volunteer with the United Methodist Committee on Relief for a couple of days over the Mardi Gras break. Contact the Read Blvd. office to coordinate dates and housing. Cost is $5/person/day to cover housing. Work can include anything within your skill level, such as painting, drywall, flooring, installing cabinets, etc.

Scholarship Opportunity

$25,000 scholarship for deserving students who self identify as being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered provided by PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

For additional information, contact Dr. Joe Melcher,
Chair of the Scholarship Committee
(504) 944-6013
(504) 520-5099
Due date for applications: February 10, 2008

Student Government Association

Meeting January 22, 2007

Resolution 0708_23 to allocate $11,870.50 and manpower to 'Homecoming 2008: A Century in the Making…Here's to the next 100,' February 17-23.
After much debate, this resolution was amended and passed in the amount of $10,000.

Meeting January 29, 2007
(Old Business)

Resolution 0708_25 to allocate $1050.00 to the Centenary Fellowship of Christian Athletes to attend the annual FCA College Athlete Retreat.
The resolution was amended and passed at $850.

Resolution 0708_26 requesting SGA to match, up to $1,200, the monetary amount that the Centenary College Chemistry Club and Centenary Environmental Association will raise, and allocate that amount to those two groups to purchase four solar panels for the Centenary College campus.
The resolution was debated but ultimately was fully funded at $1,200.

Resolution 0708_27 to allocate $1,000 to Escaped Images to attend the South Central Regional American College Dance Conference scheduled February 27 – March 1, 2008.
The resolution was debated and amended and passed with $800.

(New Business)

Resolution 0708_28 to allocate $320.00 to fund activities for Best Buddies of Centenary College.
Heard presentation; suspended the rules to vote on it that night; resolution was debated and ultimately fully funded at $320; the provision requiring Best Buddies to return unused fund was taken out of the resolution.

Resolution 0708_29 to allocate $1,480 to Alpha Sigma Chi (Chemistry Club) to attend the National American Chemistry Conference from April 6-10.
Heard presentation; resolution tabled until next meeting.

Resolution 0708_30 to allocate $2,400 to the Christian Leadership Center to attend a mission trip to Mexico scheduled for March 14 through March 19 of 2008.
Heard presentation; resolution tabled until next meeting.

Resolution 0708_31 to charter the Centenary Musical Theater Group and allocate $650 for its use in the spring musical theater review.
Heard presentation; suspended the rules to vote on it that night; resolution was debated and amended and passed at $500.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Israel's blockade causes crisis in Gaza

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

According to the BBC, Israel closed Gaza's border on January 17, 2008, cutting power to Gaza City and leaving the region dangerously low on food, fuel, and supplies. Now Gazans have destroyed parts of the border wall into Egypt in order to buy necessities no longer available to them.

The Israeli blockade is a response to rocket attacks from Hamas. Ehud Olmert, Prime Minister of Israel, was quoted as saying, "As far as I'm concerned, all the residents of Gaza can walk and have no fuel for their cars, because they have a murderous terrorist regime that doesn't allow people in the south of Israel to live in peace."

Humanitarian organizations are urging Israel to stop the blockade, as water and food shortages have seriously lowered the standard of living for residents. Egypt is doing everything possible to aid those who flee over the border. Israel is in a bind because its strategy has been to keep Hamas isolated in the area. With the Gazan-Egyptian border open, Israel fears the smuggling of weapons to Gaza, where they could be used to launch attacks on Israel. Despite acknowledging this, Israel has said that it won't open the border.

Learning Lab Schedule

Writing Lab
Sun-Thur 8-10 pm

Learning Labs (various subjects available)
Sun-Thurs 6-9 pm

The labs should be opening starting on the 23rd.

Satellite will likely collide with Earth

Stephanie Schreiber
Features Editor

The U.S. government is monitoring the descent of a spy satellite that may hit the earth within the next several weeks. After days of remaining tightlipped on any details, government officials have revealed that the satellite is a classified National Reconnaissance Office spacecraft approximately the size of a minivan. At this point it's impossible to know where it will hit, but other nations have been warned that the satellite lost power and cannot be controlled.

Similar incidents have occurred in the past with few negative consequences. It isn't uncommon for satellites to drop out of orbit, but most of them burn up upon re-entering the earth's atmosphere. On occasions when debris did reach the earth's surface, it landed in oceans and uninhabited areas.

This satellite may contain hydrazine fuel, which is fatal to humans in large doses; however, in the likely event that the tank breaks in re-entry, the fuel will burn off and pose no further problems. John Pike, defense expert and director of GlobalSecurity.org, claims that a spy satellite would not use nuclear fuel, but it may contain toxins such as beryllium. The U.S. military could potentially try to shoot it down, but that would only scatter space debris.

As of January 28, 2008, there have been no public predictions of where the satellite will land, but it will likely hit the earth in late February or early March.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2008

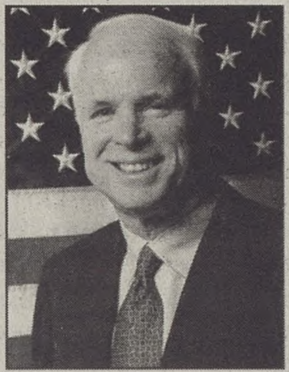
News in brief: big changes, big endorsements, big wins - and Super Duper Tuesday

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

After receiving less-than-satisfactory results in Florida's primary on Tuesday, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani dropped his bid for the Republican presidential nomination. Giuliani skipped campaigning in other states in order to focus his attention and money on Florida, which he was going to use as a platform from which to win the party's nomination. The former mayor came in third behind John McCain and Mitt Romney and officially ended his White House run on Wednesday.

Former Senator John Edwards announced his end of campaigning on Wednesday in New Orleans, the same city in which he officially stated his intent to run for President. His absence leaves just Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama to battle for the nomination of the Democratic Party, and both scrambled to reach out to his voters afterward, both speaking highly of the campaign Edwards ran. He highlighted the plight of poverty-stricken and middle-class families suffering from the uncertain economy, as well as trade and health care. As of Thursday morning, Edwards had not endorsed either Democratic candidate.

John McCain won the endorsements of Rudy Giuliani and Governator Arnold Schwarzenegger this week. The two prominent Republicans' favored states, New York and California, are participating in Super Tuesday.



Pictured: John McCain, courtesy of www.northwestern.edu.

Super Tuesday (also known as Super Duper Tuesday, Giga Tuesday, Tsunami Tuesday, and The Tuesday of Destiny, in various and sometimes ridiculous press reports), which will happen on February 5, is so named because 22 states are holding primaries or caucuses (the largest ever to be held at the same time). Because so many states are participating, in addition to the votes that have already passed, a significant portion of the convention delegates will be decided. That is unusual so early in the election cycle (just the first week of February): the Associated Press, as reported in The Boston Globe and The Washington Post, projects that 52% of the Democratic and 41% of the Republican delegates will be awarded by the end of Super Tuesday.

Tech column: Great innovations in web browsing and e-books

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

Flock streamlines social networking

Over the years, web browsers have struggled to evolve, each time fighting against one another to improve different aspects of the browsers—think Netscape vs. Internet Explorer 5 and 6, or Firefox 2.0.* vs. Internet Explorer 7. Most of the time, the enhancements are on the security front. Sometimes streamlined usability or the user's ability to customize the browser is at the heart of the battle.

Now, thanks to the open source Flock browser (based on Mozilla Firefox code), Mozilla and Microsoft might have to start watching their backs.

Flock, available for Linux, Mac OS X, and Windows, lets users integrate a lot of their life directly into the browser. On the left bar, users can monitor, update, and upload to social networking sites like Myspace, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Flickr. Native support for RSS feeds gives users the newest updates from their favorite websites, and a full set of extensions allows customization.

The development team for Flock has even said on its website that it will integrate Yahoo Mail, Gmail, and Picasa in the next iteration, Flock 1.1, which should be released by the end of the month.

Kindle by Amazon might be the new face of e-books

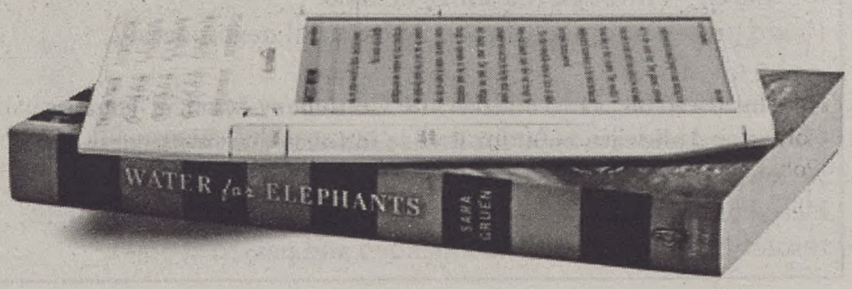
It's incredibly pricey at $399 dollars, but Kindle is a strong innovation in the field of... books. Honestly, that was something I had never expected to say in a technology column, but Amazon has forced my hand.

Kindle is an e-book reader with some new technology that puts it miles ahead of the competition. For starters, it can wirelessly download books almost anywhere via EVDO, the same wireless technology used in most new cell phones. It supposedly holds over 200 titles (or more, with an optional SD card), weighs just over ten ounces, and has a battery life of about a week if the wireless adapter is turned off.

It boasts a new kind of screen that Amazon calls "electronic paper," meaning, according to Kindle's product page, "[Kindle has a] black-and-white screen that resembles the appearance and readability of printed paper. The screen works using ink, just like books and newspapers, but displaystheinkparticleselectronically. It reflects light like ordinary paper and uses no backlighting, eliminating the glare associated with other electronic displays. As a result, Kindle can be read as easily in bright sunlight as in your living room. The screen never gets hot, so you can comfortably read as long as you like."

Kindle also features a built-in dictionary, wireless access to Wikipedia, and can have top newspapers auto-delivered every morning.

Whether or not it's a viable technology that will stand the test of time is unknown, but Kindle is certainly cool. It's also been perpetually sold out since its release on November 19, 2007, and it still has a waiting list because Amazon can't produce the devices quickly enough to meet demand. Apparently the business of books isn't going down without a fight, regardless of the frightening statistics about the percentage of the population who doesn't read.



Meet Maya Trinkjaer, a great Dane who already loves Phoenix Underground

Jessica Brown
Staff Writer

Maya comes to Centenary this semester from Aarhus University in Denmark. She arrived shortly after Christmas break and will stay through the semester. Maya is studying Scandinavian languages and literature with a minor in English. Her time spent at Centenary will focus on her English minor.

Congo: So, Maya, where in Denmark were you born?

Maya: Aalborg.

Congo: And how old are you?

Maya: I'm 23.

Congo: What classes are you taking this semester?

Maya: This semester I am taking Advanced Visual Culture, American Literature, and Literature and the Environment.

Congo: What are some of your hobbies?

Maya: I played soccer for ten years and really enjoyed it. I love hanging out with my friends and going clubbing. My favorite club here so far is the Phoenix Underground. I like reading and enjoy literature. I also love traveling and have traveled to several places in Europe.

Congo: Where in Europe have you visited?

Maya: I have been to France, Norway, Sweden, Spain, Germany, Bulgaria, Russia, and Turkey, to name a few places.

Congo: Wow, that's a lot of places. Anywhere in Europe you haven't been that you would like to go?

Maya: I really want to visit Italy, Switzerland, and Austria.

Congo: Explain your first impression of America.

Maya: My first impression of America was when I was flying into Dallas's DFW Airport. The city looked huge from above and everything else around it seemed flat, which is what I had heard about the United States. I would still really like to explore Dallas. It looked like a very interesting city from above.

Congo: What do you think about Centenary?

Maya: The people here are much more open and kinder than I thought they would be. It really surprised me. In Denmark when people pass you on the street, they don't even acknowledge you. Here they want to say hello and see how you are doing.

Congo: What don't you like about what you've seen here so far?

Maya: I really don't like the cafeteria food, but from what I hear, that is not unusual even for the American students. I was also shocked by the way the students dance. I was not expecting that.

Congo: So what plans do you have for your stay in America?

Maya: I plan to go to Mardi Gras in New Orleans, and I am very excited. I would also like to see an Indian reservation. Other than that, I plan to visit Dallas, Texas; Mobile, Alabama; and Florida.

Congo: And what are your career plans?

Maya: I would like to be an English teacher in Turkey as of right now. After that, I'm not too sure.

As you can see, Maya is an exciting exchange student and is definitely worth getting to know. She's fun and easy to talk to. So far she really loves America and, most importantly, Centenary.

Sex and the Centenary: 1 + 1 = 4? Understanding polyamory

Southern Elle, Staff Writer

If you think that open relationships are an invention of college guys trying to get laid by multiple women, well, it's time to get re-edumacated and leave the dark ages. We've arrived in the 21st century, and many people are starting to wonder if monogamy is really the end-all, be-all in relationships. Why is it that most animal species (including penguins, which are only monogamous for a year) have multiple partners over their life spans? Could some humans possibly be (biologically, socially, or both – I'm not taking on this fight) more adept at relationships which don't require dire monogamy?

Enter polyamory. If you missed both Greek and Latin, that translates to "many loves" (using, weirdly, a mixture of both languages). Unlike polygamy (many wives, one husband), "polyamory" is the practice of having multiple relationships with multiple people simultaneously, with the full consent and knowledge of all involved. Polyamorous individuals may choose this lifestyle for many reasons. They may feel that monogamy is too confining, that jealousy and possessiveness are merely restrictive cultural ideas, that the possibility of loving more people leads to more fulfilling lives, or that sexual attraction is a fluid desire which does not stop with the "bounds" of commitment.

There is no "set definition" of a polyamorous relationship. In some cases, there are two "primary" or more committed partners (who may be married, dating for long periods of time, etc.) who choose to have relations with other people outside of this commitment. If couples follow polyfidelity, then they are "fluid-bonded." This means the two partners agree that it is acceptable to kiss, date, and/or touch others, but not to swap fluids (e.g. have sex) with another person. Other couples may choose to have secondary or sub-relationships, which mean the partners would have relationships with other people. These relationships may or may not include sex, depending on the couple's wishes. These relationships may be heterosexual or homosexual or bisexual, depending on the couple.

Polyamorous couples may also include three people who choose to date, be committed, or have children as a group. This may or may not include sex, depending on the relationship. Relationships can also be mono/poly, which means one partner is monogamous while the other partner chooses to have multiple relationships. Some of these relationships may also be sexually open but not emotionally – in other words, the partners may have casual sexual relations with other people but not fall in love with others.

This might sound a little far-fetched, but you would probably be surprised to find that you might know a few people who practice polyamory. Because polyamory is not very socially accepted, many people remain closeted about their lifestyle. But it is not just the act of having multiple partners that is revolutionary. The ideas behind polyamory, which stress communication, trust, respect, and a lack of jealousy, can help improve all relationships – both monogamous and polyamorous ones.

Polyamory (and the many people who practice this lifestyle) is often not concerned with "how" a relationship appears (e.g. the number of people or who is in a relationship with whom). Instead, the major concern is that every person involved has full knowledge and consent of the situation. Polyamorous couples still believe in loyalty, fidelity, and trust – keeping secrets, lying, or sleeping with someone without their partner's knowledge would be breaking fidelity. Instead, each partner must have trust, respect, support, and honesty for all partners. Just like monogamous relationships, there has to be a whole lot of communication for these relationships to work. Often partners will have "veto power," or the ability to request their partners not to have a relationship, sexually or emotionally, with someone they don't approve. The partners may choose to lay out specific ground rules on what activities and actions are acceptable in the relationship. But most importantly, polyamorous couples don't believe in possessing or controlling other partners – instead, it is a common trust, love, and respect that keep people together, not fear of cheating or jealousy.

If this sounds interesting (or confusing) and you want to know more, there are tons of websites to check out. I recommend www.polyamory.org, www.polyamorysociety.org, and www.lovemore.com. Wikipedia's article on polyamory also has some interesting history and information.

Advice from Allison: On life after graduation and losing weight

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

The opinions and ideas expressed in this article do not in any way reflect those of Centenary College, the Conglomerate, or the writer herself. In fact, these ideas probably don't express any intelligently informed opinions anyway.

Dear Allison,

I am graduating in May and have no idea what I want to do with my life. Everyone else seems to either have a job lined up or have been accepted into a graduate program. I'm worried that I won't ever figure out what to do with my life. What can I do to start figuring this out?

Scared Senior

Dear Scared,

Most people do not know what to do with their lives even after finding a job or graduating with advanced degrees. You need to ignore outside pressures, whether they be your parents encouraging you to become a doctor, your grandfather who wants you to attend the same law school as he did, or your friends telling you that you have the goods to be a mediocre erotic dancer. You need to channel out these influences and focus on what you really want to do, as opposed to what you have been told you want to do. If May arrives and you still don't have a clue as to what to do post-undergrad, then you can always reapply to Centenary College for another four-year go at it. Who knows, maybe the second time around you can get a degree that is actually worth something.

Dear Allison,

I want to lose a little bit of weight that I have been steadily gaining since freshman year. It was never a problem until my clothes stopped fitting as well. I already work out three times a week and I try to eat reasonably well. What else can I do to lose some of this weight?

Jiggly Junior

Dear Jiggly,

A lot of people tend to gain a little extra body mass throughout their undergraduate experience. The environment is perfect for weight gain: chicken nuggets at 11 p.m., pizza every day in the Caf, and lots and lots of spirits on Greek Row. Losing the weight is definitely a lot harder than gaining it. A few things I like to do are varying my workouts, cutting back on refined carbohydrates, and drinking lots of water. If these things do not work for you, then you still have a few more options. You can learn to love your new body as long as you maintain a healthy lifestyle. If accepting this new weight is still not satisfying you, you can always just become friends with people who are bigger than you. That way, you'll always look thin when you're around them.

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Strange but true news: manic carrot-lovers, weird baby names, and ferrets

Kat Michiels
Staff Writer

Carrot lovers plan shopping spree

Harry Potter and *NSYNC fans were always over the top, but a Facebook group that has enlisted over 100,000 members has a different love- carrots. The group of orange vegetable lovers is planning a major shopping spree. On May 15, 2008, at 2:00 in the afternoon, members of the group plan to go to the local grocery store and buy up as many carrots as they can. This "panic-buy" started out as a joke, but has since branched out into something much more.

Critics are saying that members of the group are irresponsible and that the panic-buy will cause a mass carrot shortage. An opposing Facebook group has been created to oppose the shopping date- it has about 45 members.

On the other side, groups are also being created to counter the carrot surplus. Concerned about the carrots that will be wasted, many people are trying to organize post-day cooking parties. These parties will cook large stews and other carrot-filled dishes to bring to homeless shelters and the like.

If this goes over well, Centenary should consider starting a mass movement of buying eggplant. If we get a bunch of people to join in, maybe we can eradicate the ugly purple vegetable.

If you want to join the movement, sign up at www.panicbuyers.co.nr

Court forces kid to change his name

Look out celebrities- an Italian court order is forcing a family to change its offspring's name from Friday to Gregory. After he was actually born on Friday, the family named the kid Friday because they liked the name and the way it sounded.

However, somebody decided to inform the tribunal, and it went up to the courts from there. Citing an Italian law that prevents children being named anything "ridiculous or shameful," the court is forcing the parents to change the child's name to Gregory, who is the saint of the day he was born.

Friday/Gregory, only fifteen months old, won't remember a thing, and it doesn't look like anyone else will either. An appeals court refused to hear the case, apparently because Friday is considered an unlucky day.

Good thing Apple, Pearl, True Harlow, Banjo, and Pilot Inspektor claim their citizenship elsewhere.

89 frozen ferrets discovered

Authorities called to investigate an animal control situation uncovered 89 frozen ferrets in a Virginia home. In addition to the dead ones, the animal police also rescued over 200 live animals.

The ferrets were in a basic deep freezer in the basement, along with a cat, a rat, and other frozen animals. Authorities do not know yet why the animals were in the freezer.

They also took over 100 live ferrets, cats, dogs, and birds from the house. The animals were in such bad health that 61 of the ferrets had to be euthanized.

No word yet on why the Virginia home had so many animals, especially frozen ones.

This week's bit of trivia: Popeye has four nephews: Pipeye, Peepeye, Pupeye, and Poopeye. Seriously.

Breaking news: whales are possibly anti-American terrorists

Amanda Russell
Staff Wrtier

Who has a problem with whales? Besides being oversized and fish-like, they generally stay to themselves and hide in the ocean, free from the prying eyes of Hollywood. "Free Willy" star Keiko the orca whale is the general exception. His time spent in Hollywood, starring in hot Hollywood movies beginning with "Free Willy," put him on the map. Whales also eat plankton, fish, or other sea creatures and help maintain the Earth's balance. Whales are generally regarded as just plain fun to watch - but not if you are President Bush. The Commander-in-Chief has recently labeled whales a threat to national security.

The New York Times reported last week that the U.S Navy's active sonar program, used to locate quiet-running submarines, disrupts marine m.ammals that use their own internal sonar and "acoustical systems" to locate one another, mate, feed, and navigate the ocean. A federal district judge in California issued a series of mandates ordering the Navy to modify some of its sonar practices to protect mammals off the coast of Southern California (which includes five species of endangered whales). In an attempt to circumvent the Court order, President Bush quickly responded by granting the Navy waivers. Bush claims he issued the waivers on 'national security grounds.' The Times reports that this is not really a matter of national security, but a matter of convenience to the Navy. I beg to differ.

Although I think whales are cute and generally harmless, I remembered back to an episode of "Wildboyz." In this episode Johnny Knoxville and the Wildboyz, Steve-O and Chris Pontius, watched as killer whales exploded out of the ocean onto the beach to eat sea lions lying there helplessly. It was terrifying. These whales are a threat to sea lions and Americans everywhere. Ever wonder why they're endangered in the first place? Man and beast alike have tried their best to destroy these creatures over the years. "Free Willy" attempted to cast the killer whale in more positive light, but the killings continued. I suspect the whales have also been interfering with the Navy's sonar communication system to intercept state secrets.

Since President Bush is God's chosen servant on Earth to lead the free world away from evil and into everlasting democracy, his word is law. Bush's labels the Navy's interference with whale activity a matter of national security. That's what makes this even more alarming. Is there something he knows about the whales that the rest of the country should? Using cryptic analysis and Google, I have uncovered the secret of these beasts.

First, Bush calls the Navy's interference a "matter of national security." The executive office that deals with issues of national is the Department of Homeland Security. The DHS was created in 2002 to protect the national security interests of the United States by combating the effects of terrorism and natural disasters. Since whales can't cause any natural disasters that I know of, President Bush must have been referring to terrorism with his statements. So, if whales are a threat to national security, and terrorists are a threat to national security it logically follows that WHALES ARE TERRORISTS!

This startling revelation will shock the world once the media catches word of the story. Sea Worlds across the country will be compared to Afghanistan in the sense they "aid and abet terrorists." Whales are no longer safe or welcome. But Americans must be watchful. Whales could be living among you right now. They may be your neighbors, your co-workers, or the old woman who sits next to you on the bus and smells of cat piss and rotting cheese. She could very well be a whale.

The U.S. must take steps to combat whales immediately. First, those living next to bodies of water where whales may be hiding must be immediately armed with whale harpoons. Next, captured whales must undergo some form of torture other than 'water boarding' (because let's face it, whales dig water).

Finally, Democrats and Republicans must come together to solve this worldwide issue and break whale networks and strongholds across the world. With global warming melting the icecaps increasing sea levels, whales will have more places to hide. Maybe we should use nukes on the whales. All I know is that something must be done and it better be done fast before these whales breed, form associations, and take over the world with their sneaky fish eyes.

Satire: “Leave Bobby Alone!” - the ethics of ignorance

Amanda Russell
New Congo Favorite

I first met the Governor when he visited my hometown while I was in high school. Piyush “Bobby” Jindal served as my Congressional Representative for many years before running for the state’s highest office and losing to former Governor Blanco in 2003. Besides that stunning defeat, Jindal has since had some amazing victories.

Not to be outdone by Dalip Singh Saund, a Democratic Representative from California who was the first Indian-American to serve in Congress, Jindal became the first non-white governor of Louisiana since Reconstruction on October 20, 2007. He is also the first elected Indian-American governor in U.S. history. Now, if you’re from Louisiana, you know the politics of the state. If not, when I say the “politics of the state” what I really mean is that most of the people are conservative and do not take kindly to change, but Louisiana usually ends up with a Democrat as governor because he or she is able to garner the black Democratic vote (there are 40 Democratic governors and only ten Republican governors in Louisiana’s history).

With much of the state’s southern African-American population on the run since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Democrats across the South scrambled to round up votes in the last election. Intelligent and conservative Jindal was able to come out on top. But how much do we really know about the man we call Bobby? Three seconds of mindless Internet research unconvered some interesting facts about our new governor.

Jindal supposedly takes his nickname from “Brady Bunch” character “Bobby.” According to family lore, Bobby fell in love with the ’70s sitcom and adopted the nickname of the youngest Brady son, Bobby. I find this odd. I don’t know about most of you, but at the age of four I was watching ‘Looney Toons” and “My Little Pony,” not a TV series that dealt with complex pre-teen and adult situations.

I mean, can a four-year-old really be prepared for the horror that was Marsha’s nose after she got hit in the face with the football? Can a four-year-old really understand economic lessons such as the importance of saving money just as the Brady kids were forced to do when their dad installed a pay phone in the living room? But more importantly, why did Piyush choose Bobby as his favorite Brady boy? Surely the handsome, arrogant Greg or the stuck-in-the-middle Peter would have been better. Maybe then Jindal could have married a winner of “America’s Next Top Model.” Who knows?

In addition to learning life’s lessons at an early age, Jindal converted from Hinduism to Catholicism. This is a big deal. Family pressures to subscribe to certain religious faiths or denominations can be overwhelming for any person. Take for instance the time some of my friends and I stopped by one of those Big Tent Revivals on the side of the highway just to see what all the passing out and shaking was about. Later when my mom found out, she nearly passed out herself while she shook me.

But not only did Piyush abandon the Hinduism of his childhood, he adopted Roman Catholicism. Of all the Christian denominations, I really think Catholicism is one of the harder ones to convert over to. First of all, you have to take classes to learn what Catholicism is all about. I went to Sunday school and sang songs like “Father Abraham” and “Jesus Loves Me” while my Catholic friends memorized the saints, recited prayers, and learned other church rituals. So not only did Bobby have to learn a whole new religious doctrine, he did this while in high school. I know persons of all ages convert to different denominations all the time, but I can just picture a high-school version of Bobby sitting in child-sized chair in his catechism class while a group of 12-year-old girls in frilly white dresses whisper behind his back because he couldn’t recite his ‘Hail Mary’ prayers fast enough.

With catechism behind him, Jindal was able to put his newfound faith to use. While receiving his masters at Oxford, Jindal witnessed one of his friends being possessed by a demon. In a disturbing autobiographical article in the “New Oxford Review,” Jindal recounts the night his friend “Susan” was possessed and subsequently released by her demons. I’ve seen “The Exorcist” and “The Exorcism of Emily Rose.” Trust me; I don’t want to see any type of demon, in any type of form, in any type of body. Save the vomiting and body contusions and spider-eating Satan babies for Hollywood, thank you very much.

While still a Louisiana Representative, Bobby reached hero status once again. Jindal delivered his own baby at home on August 16, 2006. Jindal’s son Slade was born to his wife Supriya at approximately 3:25 that morning shortly before the ambulance arrived. Jindal, an honors biology major at Brown University, played doctor while following the phone instructions of a nurse, ultimately tying off the baby’s umbilical cord with a shoe string. Bobby obviously likes the spotlight. It wasn’t enough that he was about to become the first Indian-American governor or was capable of exercising demons. He had to go and play doctor with his wife’s vajayjay. My favorite part of this story is the campaign slogans that were generated. My favorite was “Jindal Delivers.”

Since conquering syndicated television, Roman Catholicism, demon magic, and unsanitary birthing environments (shoestrings!), what could possibly be left for this man to full-Nelson to the ground? Ethics, my friend, ethics. Bobby Jindal likes ethics. In fact, he likes ethics so much he made ethics his number one priority when he assumed office this past month.

When I picture Ethics, I think of a 12-year-old Girl Scout. She is selling cookies and also carrying a math test. She got an A+. She has perfect double-braids, freckles, and bells on her shoes. She is followed by rabbits, bunnies, birds, chipmunks, and probably a couple of dwarves. Unfortunately, Ethics was dropped off at Bobby’s house by Vice. Vice is driving a black van. She has curly red hair, long fingernails, and is smoking two packs of Virginia Slims. Even though she’s in the middle of suburbia in January, she’s wearing a short, red cocktail dress. I thought Bobby would love Ethics forever. But instead, he decided to pick up Vice.

Bobby just couldn’t be happy buying cookies. He had to go and buy cookies and not tell anyone about where he got them. Last Friday’s Shreveport Times reported that Jindal violated a state campaign finance law. Jindal’s campaign reportedly failed to disclose more than $118,000 in funding he received from the Louisiana Republican Party while running for governor. That much money would be equivalent to a bunch of conservative ladies buying Jindal a house, or a really expensive car, or 118,000 crispy chicken sandwiches from Wendy’s and him attempting to keep it under wraps. I think if he ate 118,000 crispy chicken sandwiches, however, the public might notice. Jindal must attend a public hearing on the matter scheduled for July 10.

But to all the liberal media-lites out there soaking up this situation, I have one thing to say…How dare anyone out there make fun of Bobby? After all he’s been through! He lost the election in 2003, he saw a girl with a demon, he had two kids…all you people care about is readers and making money off of him! He’s a human! What you don’t realize is Bobby is making you all this money and all you do is write a bunch of crap about him! He hasn’t stood on a soapbox in years; his platform is ethics for a reason – because all you people want is ethics, ethics, ethics! Leave him alone! You’re lucky he even ran for you bastards! LEAVE BOBBY ALONE! Please…leave Bobby Jindal alone right now, I mean it. If any of you have a problem with him you deal with me.

(Note: If you didn’t understand this, go to YouTube and watch Chris Crocker’s ‘Britney’ video. Enjoy.)

Image taken from www.nolevee.com.

Shreveport is the third-best place in the United States to film independent movies, according to MovieMaker Magazine.

The winter issue, which hit newsstands this week, features the eighth annual list of best places to make indie flicks in the U.S., and Shreveport is placed higher than the likes of New York City, Philadelphia, Seattle, Baltimore, and Memphis.

In last year's issue, Shreveport was #6 on the list. Alexandyr Kent of The Shreveport Times noted in his article that the city of Los Angeles is absent.

The top 10:

1. Austin, Texas
2. Albuquerque, New Mexico
3. Shreveport, Louisiana
4. New York City, New York
5. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
6. Wilmington, North Carolina
7. Seattle, Washington
8. Portland, Oregon
9. Baltimore, Maryland
10. Memphis, Tennessee

A&E

Recording industry to sue more college students for music theft

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

Surprise, surprise, but the RIAA is suing again. It issued a press release on January 10 saying that its College Deterrence Program will continue through 2008. The release began with, "The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), on behalf of the major record companies . . . sent a new wave of 407 pre-litigation settlement letters to 18 universities nationwide as part of an ongoing campaign against online music theft."

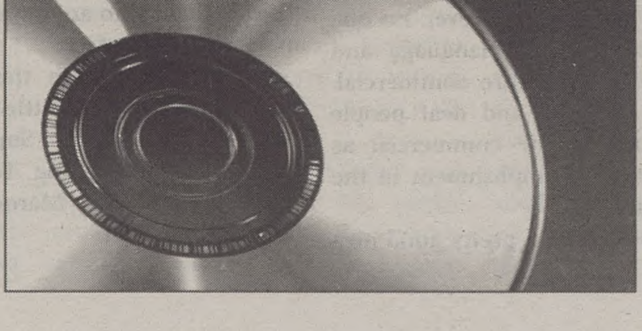
Students at these 18 schools, including Stanford, William and Mary, and Duke, will be expected to settle or go to court. As of yet, there have been no victories in court against the RIAA.

When asked in an interview with CNET columnist Don Reisinger why the RIAA was going after college students, a spokesperson for the organization, Cara Duckworth, said that, "College students have reached a stage in life when their music habits are crystallized and their appreciation for intellectual property has not yet reached its full development."

Needless to say, the suits have caused a frenzy in online blogs and columns, with Reisinger even saying that, "The MPAA and the RIAA are two organizations that should be looked upon with the greatest amount of distaste and downright condemnation. Trust me, they're really that bad."

Whatever feelings a person has for the RIAA, however, the organization doesn't seem to be going away. Even though EMI (a major record company) has threatened to pull out financial support for the organization, the RIAA's civil lawsuits have not even slowed down.

As if it weren't enough, Centenary students in dorms are at risk for the same type of litigation. Apogee, the college's ISP, states on its website that, "At Apogee, we take copyright protection very seriously . . . If you share copyrighted material without permission, you are breaking the law and could be subject to . . . criminal sanctions." It's discomforting, to say the least.



2.7 million dollar Super Bowl ad will be 60 seconds of silence

HOST TO SUPER BOWL
ARIZONA
XLII-2008

Kat Michiels
Lover of Tom Brady

FOX is reluctant to share too much information about the Super Bowl ads this year, which have netted about 2.7 million dollars for each spot, varying depending on the time slot and length of the commercial.

The Super Bowl is planned to be the most-watched show on television this week, with the writer's strike still going strong and with the football fans still going crazy. Even people who aren't so crazy about football can sit down with the beverage of their choice and some bean dip and enjoy the Super Bowl commercials, arguably the most enjoyed commercials of the year.

All reports show that Fox is not allowing any political commercials to be aired during the Super Bowl, which means that every sold-out spot will be rich with consumer-y goodness.

Other than the typical Budweiser commercials, the most hyped-up commercial so far is a Pepsi ad, already going around YouTube, that is silent for an entire minute. The ad depicts two deaf friends on their way to a party at someone's house. However, neither of them have the address. However, no one talks (save for sign language and subtitles) in the entire commercial. Hearing impaired and deaf people are celebrating the commercial as a very great accomplishment in the community.

PepsiCo has a pretty good idea here, too. With the buzz of the crown and the roar of the television, heads will automatically turn when there is suddenly silence coming from the flat-screen. Confused and slightly inebriated folks will be looking for the remote control's mute button. It's a pretty brilliant move by the Pepsi company- too bad the commercial doesn't refer to a specific product, meaning that by Tuesday, people will have trouble remembering the point of the ad.

Commercial lovers can also look forward to seeing Richard Simmons in his '80s getup in what will be the first commercial ever for Bridgestone tires. "Squeeze those buns! You are worth it, ladies!"

Fans of "The Godfather" movie will enjoy a commercial's spoof of the "horse head" scene, done by Audi. Now, I'm not quite sure what Vito Corleone's profession has to do with a 100,000 dollar car, but I suppose that's why I'm not the witty commercial writer (good thing they're not on strike).

We'll also see the same old Budweiser commercial, complete with Clydesdales and the Dalmatian. In addition, there are six other Bud Light ads, some probably a little over-the-top, including one where a guy has X-ray vision allowing him to see through women's clothes.

Finally, you may be privy to about 76 commercials promoting American Idol, which is a reality television show where contestants compete in a singing competition. Apparently, it's a huge deal in Britain. Those of you who are more cultured may have heard of it.

Tune in to see the Patriots turn the Giants into little boys, the commercials, and a Super Bowl halftime show starring Tom Petty, Mary J. Blige, and Maroon 5 this Sunday on FOX.

Movie review: "The Great Debaters" is the best film made in the Shreveport area

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

There have been many movies made around the Shreveport area in the past couple of years. Some of them have been good ("The Guardian"), others not so good ("Premonition" and "Blonde Ambition"). I am glad that there was another good movie made around our area. "The Great Debaters" is, in my opinion, the best movie made in Shreveport since we became the movie mecca of the south.

Set in 1935, at the height of The Great Depression and Jim Crow laws, the movie is about the Wiley College debate team. Comprised of four members, James (Denzel Whitaker), Samantha (Jurnee Smollet), Henry (Nate Parker), and Hamilton (Jermaine Williams), this team from a small, all-black college in Texas overcomes many different obstacles both internal and external to become one of the best debate teams in the nation. They also become the first black college to debate against white schools (not to mention win).

The first thing I noticed about the film was the performances. Every actor brings their A-game. Of course, this is to be expected when the top two members of the cast are Denzel Washington as the debate team's coach and Forest Whitaker as the father of one of the debaters. However, they are really only supporting characters in the story.

The actors playing the debate team make their characters identifiable. You can feel their anxiety before the debates and their elation after each victory. They are the reason why the movie is as entertaining as it is.

The debates in this movie are compelling, even if they seem a little too relevant for today's climate. Maybe that is to be expected when Oprah is one of the producers of the film, but I digress. Regardless, the debates are spirited and are as exciting as any action scene that I have seen.

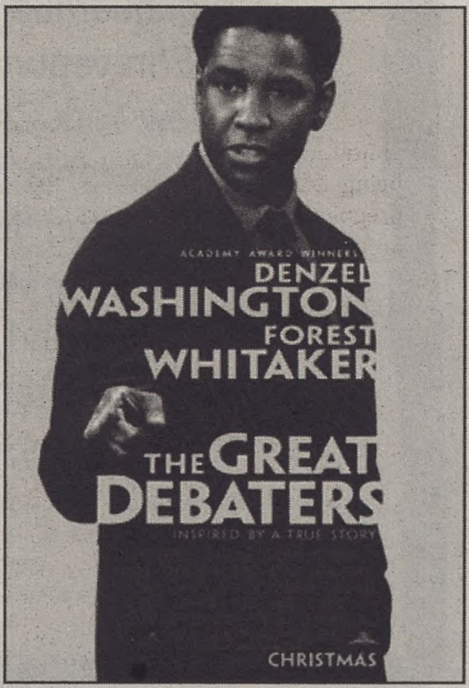
One thing I noticed about this movie is the fact that there is nothing that is recognizably Louisiana to be found in this film. The settings in this film are completely believable and unrecognizable, which definitely helped sell the illusion that we are watching a Depression-era movie made around our area of the state.

Plus, it is commendable to have a Jim Crow film that does not make every white character seem horrible. After all, the other debate teams come across very well, as well as the students from the white colleges.

However, I do have some minor quibbles with the film. One is the constant rotation of the team throughout the film. It seems like every member of the team quits at least once at some point during the film. Plus, the debates and messages are beat into the audience's head throughout the film. The movie is preachy.

However, it is still very well-acted and compelling. The characters are likeable and the debates are entertaining. I never found myself checking my watch or wondering when the movie was going to end.

This movie is by far the best made in the Shreveport area and worth a look.



SHREVEPORT
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

WHEN: 7:30 PM Saturday, February 9, 2008

WHERE:Shreveport's Riverview Theatre (formerly Civic Theatre), 600 Clyde Fant Parkway

ADMISSION: $10, $20, $30 & $36 - $5 for students

TICKETS: Call the Symphony box office at (318) 227-TUNE (8863) between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or visit the office on the fourth floor of the Strand Theatre, 619 Louisiana Avenue. The box office opens at 12:00 noon on the concert day at the Riverview Theatre.

PARKING: Limited valet parking is available at $10. A free shuttle will depart one time from Uptown Shopping Center at 6:15 p.m. A second free shuttle will depart from the AmSouth Bank parking garage located on the corner of Milam and Market Streets at 5:30 p.m. Both shuttles will continue to make pickups at the AmSouth garage every 10 minutes until concert time.

MENUS: Patrons may enjoy an elegant pre-concert dinner at The Cambridge Club of Shreveport or Columbia Caf? & MUSIC benefiting the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra. A pre-fixed price of $50 per person includes a salad, choice of entree, dessert, coffee or tea, and one glass of wine. Reservations must be made by noon on Friday, February 8 by calling 318-227-TUNE (8863). Diners do not have to be a member of the Cambridge Club to participate.

KSCL Battle of the Bands

The Shell's main event kicks off in one month. The event is the 5th Annual Battle of the Bands brought to you by KSCL 91.3 FM and the Centenary Homecoming Committee. The date is Saturday, March 29th at 1pm.

KSCL is seeking eight performers (groups or solo acts) from any genre of music. These artists will compete for first, second, and third place prizes ($300, 150, 50 respectively). Submissions can be digital tracks (send to ksclbotb@gmail.com) or physical CDs (via the post office in the SUB). The last day to turn in submissions is Thursday, March 20th.

This will be a big event for Centenary, KSCL, Highland, and Shreveport so we're looking for help. If anyone is interested in volunteering some time, but not competing, please contact ksclbotb@gmail.com.

Condom shortage in Hollywood leads to baby boom (partly true)

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

In the past year, there have been a large number of celebrities who have become pregnant. It seems like there have been more celebrities announcing their pregnancies or being under the suspicion of being pregnant lately. After all, Jessica Alba, Jamie Lynn Spears, Nicole Kidman, Nicole Richie, and Christiana Aguilera are pregnant or recently had children. But why is that?

Well, as a fearless reporter and A&E editor for your Conglomerate, I decided to get to the bottom of the baby boom in Hollywood.

After some digging and deep cover reporting (not so deep that I had sex with Britney Spears), I learned the truth about this outbreak of babies. The reason there are so many babies being born in Hollywood right now is that there has been a condom shortage in the City of Angels.

Naturally, I was intrigued as to why this was occurring. So I decided to schedule an interview with the CEO of the Trojan Condom Company, Mike Rotch.

Conglomerate: Hello Mr. Rotch. How are you today?

Rotch: I am good. I just had to pay a visit to the testers. They are suffering from performance anxiety right now.

Congo: Really? Why is that?

Rotch: We can't identify the reason. However, we think we may have to submit some orders for Viagra or Enzyte or something. I wish we could have someone like Bob on our staff. He is always so damn happy, for obvious reasons.

Congo: Anyway, I am calling today about information regarding the recent shortage of your product in Los Angeles, specifically in Hollywood. Can you give us a cause as to why you cannot provide celebrities condoms?

Rotch: Well, the problem is with our main machine in our Los Angeles branch.

Congo: What happened?

Rotch: It broke.

Congo: Excuse me?

Rotch: It split down the middle and we had stuff spraying everywhere.

Congo: …okay. Has the situation been corrected?

Rotch: Afraid not. We are still going to have to suffer through this surplus of babies for the time being. Let's just hope that we can replace our dysfunctional equipment before Britney Spears gets pregnant again. Then again, maybe another celebrity can adopt the child before she has an opportunity to inflict too much damage upon it. Forget Africa, we have kids at home who need help.

Congo: Is there any fear that this baby boom will cause women around the country to think that having babies is the "in thing" to do?

Rotch: Yeah. If people want to make babies, then I'll be out of the job.

Congo: When can we expect the equipment to be up and running?

Rotch: Hopefully soon.

Congo: Well, I hope that you get your equipment working right on behalf of men everywhere.

Rotch: Thank you.

There you have it, folks. It turns out that we have a broken condom machine that is causing celebrities to have crazy amounts of babies. And to think, I thought that celebrities had finally found Power Thirst. 400 babies!!!!!!

(YouTube it.)

CD preview: London's Hot Chip magic is back again

Jon Schleuss
KSCL Review

Just when you thought that you were stuck with The Warning (06's release), you get a new splash of electro dance beats.

Release Date: Tuesday, Feb. 5
Record Comp: DFA/Astralwerks
Store: iTunes, Amazon

If you are a virgin to Hot Chip, then "Made in the Dark" is a fine place to get started, but you'll eventually need to go back and check out the older tapes.

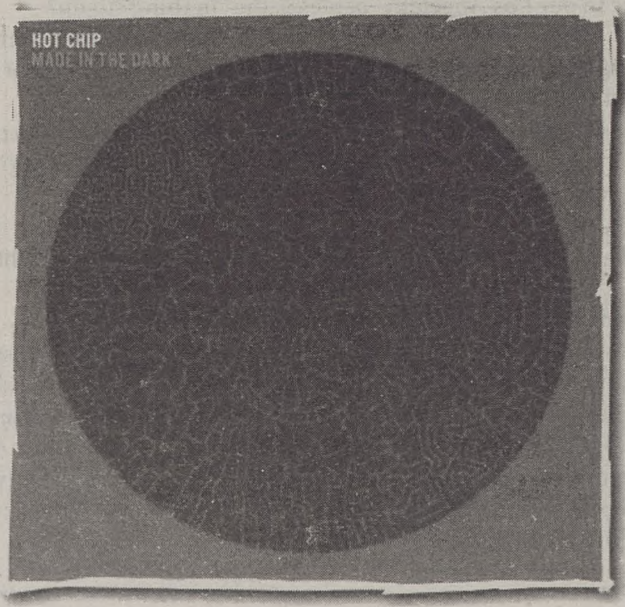
The new album opens with a slow electronic hum growing into a beat that eventually explodes at 1'7". The song then morphs into a fast beat that's, well, "funky cheap". The next song, "Shake a Fist," has some interesting secrets up its sleeve. Right around 1'53" there's a break for "Sounds of the Studio" then straight back to a revamping of the original song. I'll leave "Sounds of the Studio" up for you to figure out. Oh yeah, did I mention wild trance splashes and yelling? Check and double check.

"Ready for the Floor" is adorable. It's the track to give to your, erm, BFF. Then, down to number 5, "We're Looking for a Lot of Love." It captures an intimate moment between two people that turns rather sour:

"Underneath a burning tree,
That is where she brought me,
That is where she bound me,
Nobody found me."

#7, "Made in the Dark," gives us another side of the pro-dance Hot Chip. This track is quite melancholy and lonely, but there's still that Hot Chip magic. And that Hot Chip magic makes it worth buying an all-around great record. One of the best for 2008, wait and see. I'll call it now. #1 in CMJ in three weeks.

Made in the Dark can be found on the internet; creds to stereogum.com, an indie mp3 download site. iTunes has the album out for pre-order now with an exclusive version of "Bubbles They Bounce" and "My Brother is Watching Me" going only with the pre-order.



FILM INDUSTRY LOCAL NEWS

The following information is courtesy of (225) 342-FILM, the official hotline of the Louisiana Office of Entertainment Industry Development.

The Sony Studios Pictures feature film **"Year One" starring Jack Black and Michael Cera** (from "Superbad" and "Juno") is in production in Shreveport with shooting scheduled through the end of March. Inquiries are currently being accepted by fax at (318) 673-9705. For casting or more information, please call (267) 295-7838.

The Weinstein Company feature film **"Soul Men" starring Bernie Mac and Samuel L. Jackson** is in production in Shreveport with shooting scheduled through the end of March. Inquiries are being accepted by fax at (318) 429-7598.

The Comedy Central television pilot "Speed Freaks" is in production in Shreveport and will shoot for one week beginning Jan. 28. Inquiries are currently being accepted by fax at (318) 676-0718.

The Weinstein Company feature film **"The Untitled Ice Cube Movie" (previously "Comeback") starring Ice Cube** is in production in Shreveport with shooting scheduled through Feb. 14. Inquiries can be faxed to (318) 698-1301. For casting information, please visit http://www.bamcastingla.com/.

The Millennium feature film **"Beyond a Reasonable Doubt" starring Michael Douglas and Amber Tamblyn** is in pre-production in Shreveport with shooting scheduled for March 3 through April 14. Resumes and inquiries are being accepted by e-mail at bardoubt@gmail.com. For casting information, please visit http://www.gloriosocasting.com/.

The Weinstein Company feature film **"The Midnight Man"** is in pre-production in Shreveport and will shoot 20 days beginning February 11. Resumes and inquiries are being accepted by fax at (318) 603-4562.

The feature film **"Tekken"** is in pre-production in Shreveport with shooting scheduled to begin Feb. 6 (corrected) for six weeks. Resumes and inquiries are currently be accepted by fax at (318) 603-4564. Tekken is looking for extras of Japanese ancestry. For more information, please visit http://www.gloriosocasting.com/.

The independent feature film **"The Open Road"** is in pre-production in Baton Rouge. Details are coming soon.

The Universal Pictures feature film **"Cirque du Freak"** is in pre-production in New Orleans with shooting scheduled from February 19 through June 1. Resumes and inquiries are being accepted by fax at (504) 571-2023.

The Screen Gems feature film **"Mardi Gras"** is in pre-production in New Orleans with shooting scheduled for March and April. Resumes are currently being accepted by e-mail at mardigrasprod@yahoo.com.

The WWE feature film **"Twelve Rounds"** is in pre-production in New Orleans and will shoot Feb. 25 through May 12. Resumes are being accepted by e-mail at torossi@earthlink.net.

The New Line Cinema feature film **"Final Destination 4"** is in pre-production in New Orleans and will shoot March 3 through May 29. Resumes and inquiries are currently being accepted by fax at (504) 734-3403.

The Films in Motion feature film **"The Abduction of Jesse Bookman"** is in production in Baton Rouge through February 1. For more information, please e-mail Jason@filmsinmotion.com.

And for more information about the film and television industry in Louisiana, please visit http://www.lafilm.org/.

SPORTS

NBA All-Stars roll into New Orleans

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

The glitz, glam, and glory of the NBA will be coming to New Orleans this month in the form of the annual All-Star game.

The All-Star players and 2,500 more "NBA Family" members will start the competition with a massive service project on Friday, February 15 at ten different sites in the Crescent City.

Through the All-Star Balloting program, fans around the world were able to vote online, via phone, and in person for their favorite players to participate in this elite event. The voting lasted from November 14 to January 20. The game will be played in New Orleans on February 17 and broadcast live on TNT and ESPN Radio.

According to those votes, the cream of the nation's basketball crop is as follows:

Eastern Conference
Kevin Garnett (Boston Celtics)
LeBron James (Cleveland Cavaliers)
Dwight Howard (Orlando Magic)
Jason Kidd (New Jersey Nets)
Dwyane Wade (Miami Heat)
Western Conference
Carmelo Anthony (Denver Nuggets)
Tim Duncan (San Antonio Spurs)
Yao Ming (Houston Rockets)
Kobe Bryant (L.A. Lakers)
Allen Iverson (Denver Nuggets)

Kevin Garnett received the most votes above all players; he has made ten previous appearances in All-Star games and was voted Most Valuable Player (MVP) in 2003. LeBron James came in second and will be making his fourth All-Star appearance, while third place Dwight Howard will be making his second appearance.

Kobe Bryant unsurprisingly received the most votes in the Western Conference and is making his tenth appearance (Bryant was the youngest All-Star in the Association's history in 1998). Bryant was also named MVP at last year's game, but in terms of votes, Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony was not far behind – and he will be making his first trip to an All-Star game.

Other players of note in this competition are Jason Kidd with his ninth appearance, Yao Ming, voted as a starter for his sixth consecutive year, Tim Duncan, voted into every All-Star team since he began playing in the NBA in 1997, and Allen Iverson, nine-time player and two-time MVP.

As for the reserves, the coaches (East and West) will select seven players within their conferences, as long as the players are not on their NBA teams. Boston Celtics head coach Doc Rivers will be coaching the East; this honor was handed to him and his coaching staff because of the Celtics' current record of the best winning percentage in the Eastern Conference. As of press time, the West's coach is not yet selected.

For more information, visit www.nba.com/allstar2008.

Schedule of Events

Friday, February 15
NBA Cares Day of Service
T-Mobile Rookie Challenge and Youth Jam
NBA All-Star Celebrity Game

Saturday, February 16
Sprite Slam Dunk
PlayStation Skills Challenge
Foot Locker Three-Point Shootout
Haier Shooting Stars
D-League All-Star Game

Sunday, February 17
2008 NBA All-Star Game
East vs. West

Tennis team faces new season on new courts

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

On Tuesday, February 5, most Centenary students will undoubtedly be enjoying Mardi Gras the traditional Louisiana way or nursing sore heads from early celebrations over the weekend. For the hard-working tennis team, however, hangovers are definitely not in the picture: the men will travel down to Baton Rouge for a match at 6:00 p.m. on Fat Tuesday, and they're focused.

"We are training every day and getting ready to play a couple of good schools like LSU next week," said sophomore Gerardo Lozano.

Centenary's men's and women's tennis teams will also travel to Nacogdoches, Texas, this weekend for their first matches of the season – and they're pumped.

"We are really excited about this coming season," said Lozano. "We have a pretty solid team this year and everything seems to be running on the right track."

The men's team will play the University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) tomorrow, February 2, at 10:00 a.m. in Nacogdoches. The women will be playing their UTPA counterparts at the same time, but have to gear up even earlier for a match today.

"I'm really looking forward to the season and I think we are going to do pretty well," said freshman Gretchen Ashley. Ashley will join her teammates – junior Kate Buchanan, senior Lindsay Ezell, senior Jennifer Majchrowicz, junior Courtney Myers, and junior Kayleigh Sullivan – in taking on Stephen F. Austin at 6:00 p.m. in Nacogdoches tonight.

Head coach Larry Jacobs has followed a tradition of hard practices and pure optimism for the beginning of any tennis season. What is notable about tennis practice on any given day, however, is the fun that the players seem to have while working and the level of camaraderie that they enjoy. That feeling certainly translates even to first-year players like Ashley. "It's going to be a lot of fun," she said, in reference to the tournament this Friday and Saturday and the season's upcoming matches.

The men are also starting with a healthy dose of confidence. "We have a pretty solid team this year," said Lozano, who is joined by sophomore Jacob Dawson, junior Seva Kostelanetz, sophomore Mark Rodgman, senior Alejandro Ahuja, and freshman Oscar Medellin in representing Centenary in tennis.

The College is also granting the team new courts this year, which will be a significant boost to practice and quality of competitive play.

"We are also getting ready for conference matches," said Lozano. "We have a pretty good chance to get a few wins this year."

Prediction of this week's big game

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

Most Giants fans did not believe that their early Super Bowl predictions on the New York Giants' odds to win it all would still be alive in late January. The New York Giants need to win on the road to be able to stake claim to the NFC Championship and get a trip to Arizona for Super Bowl XLII. With an unbelievable eight wins in a row on the road this season, they seem to not be getting a whole lot of respect this week. In fact, they are listed as the longest shot of any of the teams left in the playoffs to actually win the Super Bowl. Sure, they have to travel to Green Bay this week to play in an environment that is a tough place to win, but haven't they done that all this season? They came into Dallas and persevered through the so-called #1 team in the NFC (I still cry at night thinking of that Sunday).

The other issue to consider is that in order for New York to win the Super Bowl, they will have to beat teams that ranked first, fourth, and fifth during the regular season in scoring. The Giants did finish the regular season ranked a rather low 17th in scoring defense, yielding 21.9 points per game, but seem to have tightened up a bit as they have averaged giving up 15.5 points per game in their two playoff games.

After going 16-0 during the regular season, the Patriots really know how to win! During the 2007 off-season the Patriots picked up some key players, including Randy Moss. The one-two combination of Tom Brady and Randy Moss is like none other. If any kind of heat stirs between the two of them Sunday night there will be no stopping the scoring machine. Recent addition Corey Dillon has been running like a madman down the field. Look for him to be huge this Sunday.

In closing, don't miss this game on Sunday. If not for the competition and seeing the Patriots possibly complete the perfect season, eat some buffalo wings and watch some funny commercials. I hope all of you have a wonderful Mardi Gras break and enjoy the game!

Michael Jarboe's Prediction: New England Patriots 31 over the New York Giants 13

MVP: Corey Dillon - New England Patriots

Tom Brady's ankle disintegrates during the second quarter

Thanks to predictem.com for the information and stats.

Film Screenings

sponsored by Art/English 290 course:
Holocaust and Genocide

Students in the Art/Engl 290 course on the Holocaust will be introducing and screening films in Turner 105 on Sunday nights at 6:30 pm. You are invited to join them!
The film schedule follows:

2/10: The Diary of Anne Frank
2/17: Schindler' s List
2/24: Into the Arms of Strangers
3/2: The Boys from Brazil
3/9: Train of Life (in French)
3/30: Conspiracy
4/6: Mr. Death
4/13: The Pawnbroker
4/20: Paper Clips
4/27: Hotel Rwanda

The Conglomerate presents: The life of a Centenary athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

Battling the weather has been the biggest obstacle for us this past week. From rainy days to mild wintry mix, we have had to work around the forces of Mother Nature. Our team has continued to work hard and improve on little things that make us the team we aim to be. If you have ever been to a Centenary softball game, you might be impressed by how much knowledge and mental training goes into every pitch, hit, throw, and catch made between the white-chalked lines. If not, you might want to consider a game or two.

As a team, we take great pride in the ability to have certain plays geared towards certain situations and almost always we come out successful in some aspect of the play. Take runners at first base and third base and defensively we are guarding against the runner scoring or the trail runner ending up at second base. In this situation, we have over ten different plays that we prepare for or guard against. That is just a simple way of explaining the amount of thinking that goes into every aspect of the game. With that in mind, last week we spent a day in the Fitness Center focusing just on defensive strategy plays as the rain cane pouring down onto our field.

Also, this past week or so, our team has been concentrating on live at-bats. It is always nice to have a little competition amongst the team every once in a while. Two days were devoted to intra-squad scrimmages and once again getting back into the game-like mentality was much needed. I have to admit, though, hitting off our pitchers can be challenging as they might feel pitching to their hitters is a task at hand. But in the end, it hopefully will make us both much better.

Aside from the softball field, school is still a work in progress. Personally, I find it seemingly difficult to fight the stress of making good grades and keeping up with reading knowing it is just going to become much more hectic in a week. As a team, we are continuing to push through these last few weeks before the start of our official 2008 season.

In response to the Summit League pre-season standings for softball, I must say they have it all wrong. We return 14 players from last season, bringing on two fantastic newcomers. Our pitchers are back and the offensive force is getting better and better each day. Western Illinois, Southern Utah, and North Dakota State all were placed above us, but the interesting thing about college sports is the outcome really can never be predicted that early. As a team, we look to prove the Summit League wrong and bring home a conference championship for Centenary College.

Once again....we open play tomorrow afternoon against BPCC at their home field since our dugouts are still being remodeled. Play will begin at 12 p.m. and we will play a fifteen-inning game. Come out and cheer us on as we prepare to open the season up with a few victories.

"I come to play everyday." – David Ortiz, Boston Red Sox

Mudbugs crush Laredo in close game

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

This past Saturday, the Mudbugs broke a franchise record by winning their sixteenth home game in a row when they took on the Laredo Bucks in a game that could be called close, but somewhat exciting. The Bugs and the Bucks were aggressive, but not towards each other. Only once did a player from each team get into a fight, only classified as "roughing," with a two-minute minor penalty. It seemed the night was going to be long and drawn out. The last exciting game between the Bugs and the Bucks took place about two or three years ago for the CHL Championship game with a dispute that would become called a point-no-point double overtime game.

Saturday night's game was a close match with a no-score first period and, eventually, the Bugs winning by just two-to-one. In the second period, the Bugs brought their A-game, rousing up the crowd with their first point of the game, made by an around-the-left-side shot by Elias Godoy with assists from Kevin Cooper and Jason Basile. The second period was left one-to-two, despite several power plays for Laredo. The Bucks tied up the game in the third period, but with 3:09 left, Daniel Pegoraro scored the winning point just in time to make this the sixteenth straight home game win for the Bugs.

On Sunday, the Bugs took on Rio Grande Valley and won their tenth straight shutout game of the season, tying the CHL record for shutout games won and making for the Bugs' seventeenth straight game win of the season. Only a pair of goals in the second period was needed by the Bugs to defeat the Killer Bees. The first period was very entertaining even without scores on either end. The Killer Bees had some amazing chances to score, but did not take them too seriously. The Mudbugs played some awesome defense in the third period, leading to the Killer Bees' shut-out. The next Mudbugs home game is on Mardi Gras day at 7:05 p.m. at the CenturyTel Center. The rest of the Bugs' home game and away schedule and play-by-plays of the games can be found on their website, mudbugshockey.com.

Centenary Film Society presents...

"10 Questions for the Dalai Lama"
Feb 12th and 14th

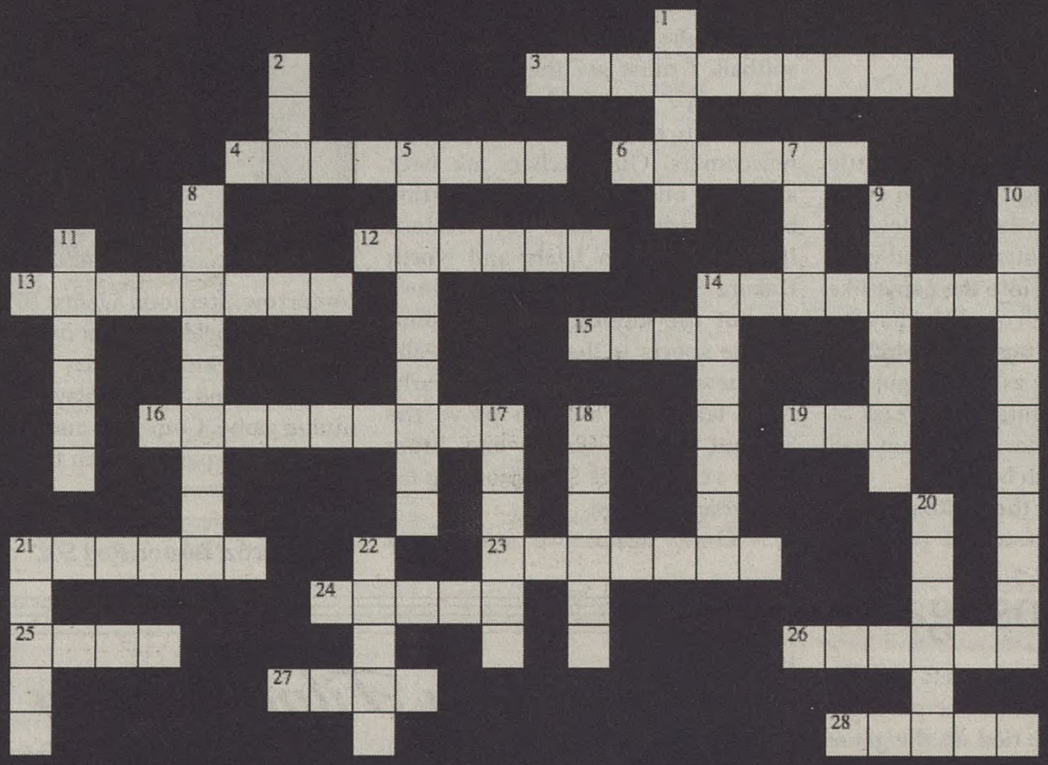
Through the life of this monumental man, greater questions of spirituality in the wake of oppression are faced. Director Rick Ray has combined his observations of the Far East based on extensive travel with the wisdom of the Dalai Lama to create a documentary vastly deeper than a mere biopic.

Instead, the film offers a rare glimpse at the humorous, scientifically curious, and endlessly kind man behind the figurehead. It is an interesting portrait of the warm reality of His Holiness juxtaposed against some stirring contemporary philosophical questions.

"There have been several documentaries about the Dalai Lama, but few have done a better job of packaging the Tibetan religious leader's circumstances, both historical and current, along with his philosophies, than Rick Ray's '10 Questions for the Dalai Lama.'" Walter Addiego, San Francisco Chronicle

All screenings are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 pm
in room 304 in Jackson Hall.
Admission is free, and movies are open to the public.
For more information, please contact Leo Kacenjar:
lkacenja@centenary.edu
or call the English department office: 869-5254
or visit our website http://www.centenary.edu/life/film

CROSSWORD PUZZLE:
BEATLE-MANIA



ACROSS
3. Let me take you down, cos I'm going to ______ __ Fields.
4. Dear ______
6. Boy, you're going to carry that ______
12. And _____ girls make me sing and shout.
13. There beneath the blue _______ skies
14. Mother _______ jump the gun
15. A crowd of people turned away but I just had to look, having read the _____.
16. _____ fly into the light of the dark black night.
19. Rocky had come equipped with a _____
21. Everyone has got something to hide except me and my _____
23. Yellow matter _____ dripping from a dead dog's eye
24. One and one and one is ______
25. I'm in love but I'm ______
26. There's a ______ hanging over me.
27. Hey ______ don't let me down
28. Sweet Loretta Martin thought she was a _____

DOWN
1. Till we found the sea of green and we lived beneath the ______
2. Wearing the face that she keeps in a ____ by the door
5. You tell me that it's ______
7. _____!
8. With tangerine trees and _______ skies
9. Little _____ it seems like years since you've been here
10. Where rocking horse people eat _______ pies.
11. While my ______ gently weeps
14. Helter _______.
17. Well you may be a lover but you ain't no _____
18. Jojo left his home in ______, Arizona
20. Speaking words of ______, let it be.
21. Desmond says to _____, girl I like your face.
22. In his octopus's garden in the ______

Horoscopes

Aquarius (1/21-2/19) Clothes do not necessarily make the woman/ man. No, I believe it's what occurs when there are no clothes involved that defines you.

Pisces (2/20-3/20) Memorize the states alphabetically. It's a much better way to spend your time.

Aries (3/21-4/20) I suggest you be a little bit more like Grace Kelly, she may have looked a little sad but she was very graceful and not nearly as dirty as you are, I think.

Taurus (4/21-5/21) I will always make fun of you for continuing to be such an avid *NSYNC fan, I'm sorry.

Gemini (5/22-6/21) When you go to the happiest place on earth please take into consideration that you are in a public place with crazy people pretending to be normal, happy, and a cohesive family unit. Beware.

Cancer (6/22-7/23) Can you smell the sweat? No? Really? Good, it's gross. Ick!

Leo (7/24-8/23) Love only gets you down.

Virgo (8/24 –9/23) You should especially pay close attention to the "Centenary Secrets," you never know one of them might be about you.

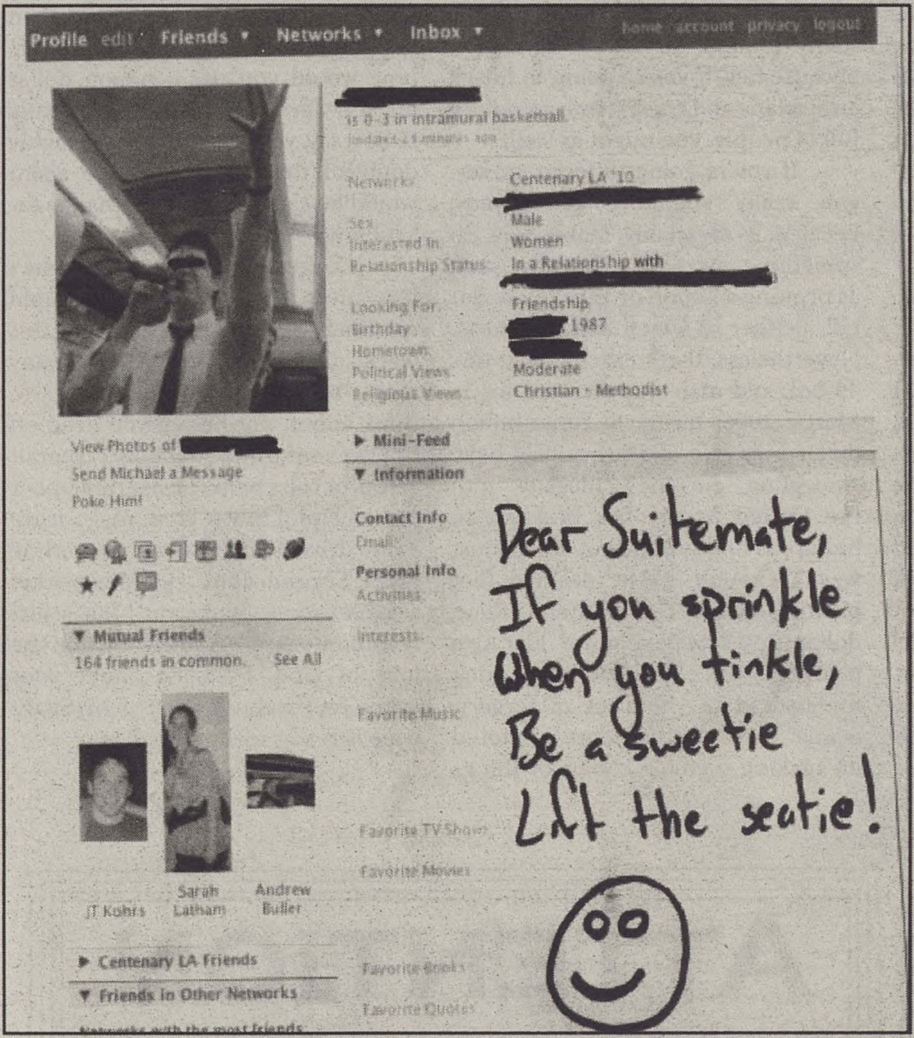
Libra (9/24-10/22) You have a lot of pent up anger that I am sure is affecting your heart. I suggest letting it all out at very inappropriate moments. For example, expel all of your negative energy in the middle of the cafeteria by ripping off your shirt and screaming obscenities at the top of your lungs. Feel better.

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) I am renaming you Billy Brown.

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) Don't hate, instigate! I have no idea what that means.

Capricorn (12/22 –1/20) Dear Capricorn, I am very sorry for neglecting you so. Anyway, fields of daisies, angelic choirs, doves flying round your head..... it's all good.

CENTENARY SECRETS



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[redacted]
is 0-3 in intramural basketball.

Networks: Centenary LA '10
[redacted]
Sex: Male
Interested In: Women
Relationship Status: In a Relationship with
[redacted]
Looking For: Friendship
Birthday: [redacted] 1987
Hometown: [redacted]
Political Views: Moderate
Religious Views: Christian - Methodist

View Photos of [redacted]
Send Michael a Message
Poke Him!

▶ Mini-Feed
▼ Information
Contact Info
Email:
Personal Info
Activities:
Interests:
Favorite Music:
Favorite TV Shows:
Favorite Movies:
Favorite Books:
Favorite Quotes:

▼ Mutual Friends
164 friends in common. See All
JT Kohrs
Sarah Latham
Andrew Buller
▶ Centenary LA Friends
▼ Friends in Other Networks

Dear Suitemate,
If you sprinkle
When you tinkle,
Be a sweetie
Lft the seatie!

In order to participate take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box #786 or slip it under the Conglomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.

CENTENARY AREA CONCERT WIRE

Feb. 1, Friday
Cross Canadian Ragweed
11 PM
Mardi Gras Texas Style!
Dallas, TX
$34 and up

Feb. 1, Friday
Pat Green
Doors @ 7 PM, Show @ 8
The Village
Little Rock, AR
$23 in advance, $26 at the door
Feb. 2, Saturday
Terri Hendrix w/ Lloyd Maines
7 PM@ Fairfield Studios
1510 Fairfield Ave., Shreveport, LA

Feb. 2, Saturday
Christian Simeon & Outlaw Nation
(Acoustic, Reggae)
9 PM @ Noble Savage Tavern
Shreveport, LA (417 Texas Street)

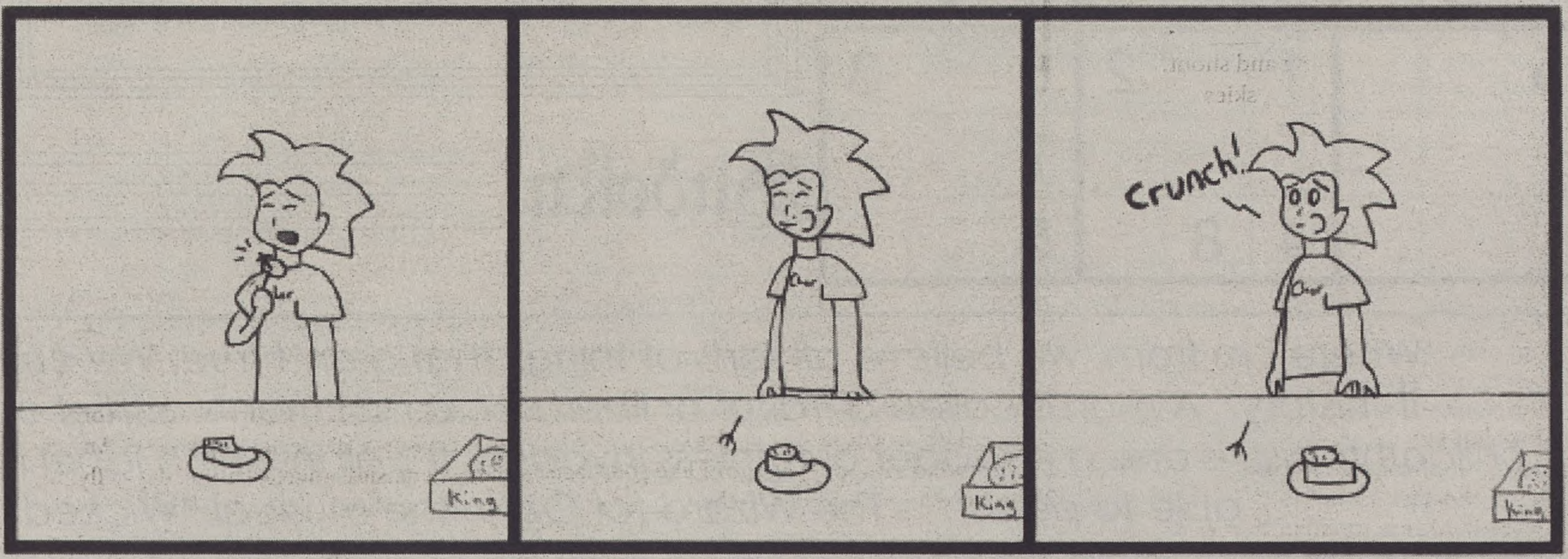
Feb. 2, Saturday
Christian Simeon & Outlaw
Nation(Acoustic, Reggae)
10 PM @ The Warehouse
Shreveport, LA (Downtown,
630 Commerce Street)
FREE

Feb. 2, Saturday
Reba McEntire
Kelly Clarkson
7:30 PM @ CenturyTel Center
Bossier City, LA
$30-$55

Feb. 2, Saturday
Rick Springfield
(sings "Jessie's Girl")
10:30 PM @ Billy Bob's Texas
Ft. Worth, TX
$15 GA, $32 reserved

A Day with Christ

by Chris Christ



Inept criminals: Teen attempts attack on Hannah Montana (in Louisiana)

Kari Patterson
Staff Writer

Oh, hapless criminals, how we do love them. Everyone enjoys stories of burglars falling over furniture and suing their would-be victims, hapless convenience store robbers who use a credit card to purchase something prior to holding up the store, or someone attempting to flee from the police on a golf cart. This week we salute you, Mr. Inept Criminal. You could be a menace to society, but you're really too much of an idiot to be anything more than a menace to yourself. Thank you for making our law enforcement's job just a little bit easier.

Last November, a 72-year-old man robbed a bank in Lynchburg, Virginia, and then tried to return the money to the bank. According to witness statements, the armed robber demanded money from a teller and then attempted to give the money back. In addition to changing his mind mid-crime, the elderly man also told witnesses to call the police, and he tried to give the teller his gun. Unfortunately, his attack of conscience came a bit too late, and the robber is being charged with a felony.

The combination of crazed fan and stupid criminal led to another near airplane hijacking last week, though the culprit this time wasn't from a terrorist organization; instead, he was a 16-year-old from California bent on crashing the hijacked plane into a Hannah Montana concert in Louisiana. The teen was apprehended in a California airport with a backpack full of handcuffs, duct tape, and rope. In preparation, the teen built a model airplane cockpit in his bedroom, but he apparently didn't bother to double check the date of the concert, which was three days after the flight he planned to hijack. Maybe he wanted to fly around for a few days first, because hey, if you're going to hijack an airplane and crash it into a stadium full of people, you might as well.

If you're going to forge money, you really shouldn't get greedy, because it invariably makes you do something incredibly stupid... such as printing a billion or a trillion dollar bill, neither of which actually exists. Nevertheless, that's exactly what one 45-year-old man was arrested for in March 2006: trying to forge billion dollar bills. He had previously been smuggling currency illegally into the United States, but bringing in hundreds of thousands of dollars just wasn't enough, so he decided that printing about 250 of these billion dollar notes was a more lucrative prospect. It's too bad he didn't understand the concept of forgery, which tends to be more centered on making credible copies of things which already exist rather than making new ones up. Really, though, how would you use a billion dollar bill, anyways? Even if you were trying to buy, say, your own island, it's highly doubtful that the real estate agent would be carrying around change for a billion.

Congratulations to the select few inept, hapless, and/or stupid criminals who were featured this week. Of course, there are many more--too many to even begin to think about. But before you head off to plan your own jewel heist, commit arson, or rob a bank, please remember these helpful hints. First, never leave your driver's license at the crime scene. Second, don't try to pickpocket a professional magician. (That's just common sense.) And finally, for the love of God, bragging about your crime on Facebook or your MySpace page is really, really stupid.

ATTENTION

We regret to inform all of our readers that in May of 2007 Nick Rougely graduated from Centenary. The former Conglomerate satirist has moved on to greener pastures. On this note, we regrettably cannot "bring back Nick" despite how often and passionately you, the readers, beg us to do so. The Conglomerate staff appreciates that you enjoyed Nick's witty articles, and surely so does he. Just to make it absolutely clear, Nick Rougely graduated, he is not coming back, get over it.

Sudoku

		2		3	8			
		3						
1		6	2		5			7
	9	5	7		3		4	
	6		5		9	1	7	
5			1		2	6		3
						7		
			4	8		5		

"Where I'm from, we believe all sorts of things that aren't true. We call it 'history.' A man's called a traitor or liberator, a rich man's a thief or philanthropist; is one a crusader or ruthless invader? It's all in which label is able to persist." - The Wizard (of Oz) in the musical "Wicked"

The
CONGLOMERATE

February 15, 2008 Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press Volume 84, Issue 17

Dr. Barbara Forrest lectures on "Creationism's Trojan Horse" at Centenary

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

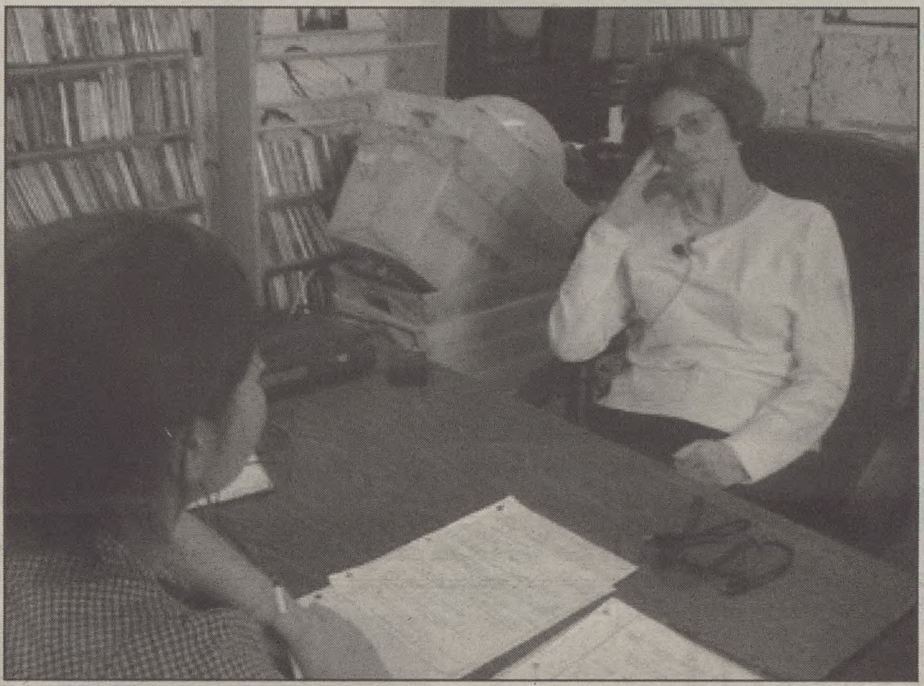
On Thursday, February 7, Dr. Barbara Forrest presented a lecture entitled "Inside Creationism's Trojan Horse: A Closer Look at Intelligent Design" at Centenary College.

The lecture detailed how creationism evolved into intelligent design (defined as the theory that nature and living things were designed by an intelligent being) after the Supreme Court case Edwards v. Aguillard. It also covered the main arguments of intelligent design, as well as the rhetoric their proponents use. It also exposed the political machinations and public relations acrobatics of the Discovery Institute, the right-wing über-conservative backing behind the intelligent design movement.

When discussing the low science literacy rate in America, Dr. Forrest pointed out a poll of the number of adults who reject evolutionary theory in a variety of countries. The United States was ranked second to last, right above Turkey.

In the lecture, two well-known Louisiana public officials who support intelligent design being taught in science classrooms were brought up. According to Dr. Forrest, Senator David Vitter earmarked $100,000 for Louisiana Family Forum (affiliated with Focus on the Family), a conservative organization which supports creationism. The purpose of the earmark was to apparently undermine the teaching of evolution in schools. Governor Bobby Jindal, recently in the news for an upcoming hearing by the State Board of Ethics for violating campaign finance law by failing to disclose $118,000 in contributions from the state Republican party, was also mentioned as a longtime supporter of intelligent design.

Dr. Forrest said that although housing a façade of science in rhetoric to obscure a political and religious agenda has not yet worked for the intelligent design movement in court, the movement has far from died out. She mentions the textbook "Experience Evolution," written by prominent Discovery Institute members, which contains sanitized terminology but still espouses intelligent design arguments.



A recurring theme from those who posed questions to Dr. Forrest after the lecture was the concern that belief in religion and belief in evolution are mutually exclusive. However, she answered that she believes that this is a misconception and that the two may indeed coexist. She also pointed out two resources for the doubting to consult: "Perspectives on an Evolving Creation," by evangelical scientist Keith Miller, and the Clergy Letter Project, an online resource which shows the support of almost 12,000 clergy nationwide for the coexistence of religion and evolutionary theory. The number of Alabama and Missouri clergy who signed on far outnumber the number of Louisiana clergy (79 and 222 to 22).

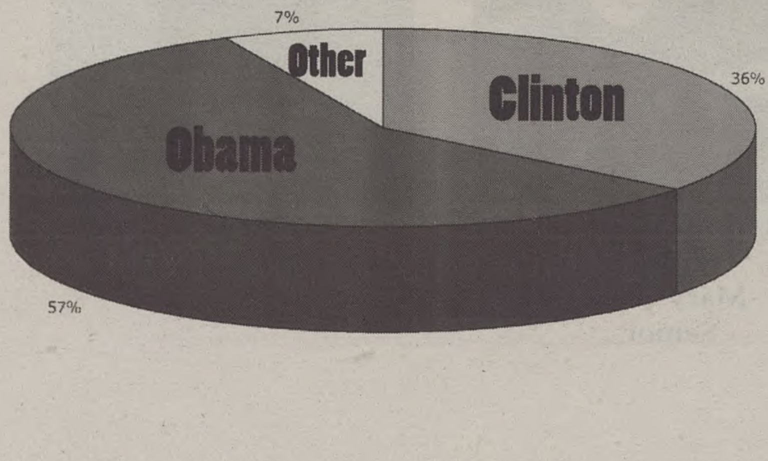
After the lecture, someone in the audience asked Dr. Forrest if she believed in God. When she replied "no," one main said in response, "That's all I need to know." In an interview given to Centenary's radio station, KSCL 91.3 FM, when asked if she got that kind of reaction often, Dr. Forrest laughed and admitted Centenary's lecture was the first time someone asked her if she believed in God.

Dr. Forrest co-authored the book "Creationism's Trojan Horse: The Wedge of Intelligent Design" with Paul Gross. The book detailed the strategies of the intelligent design movement and its attempts to undermine evolutionary biology.

cont. on page 3

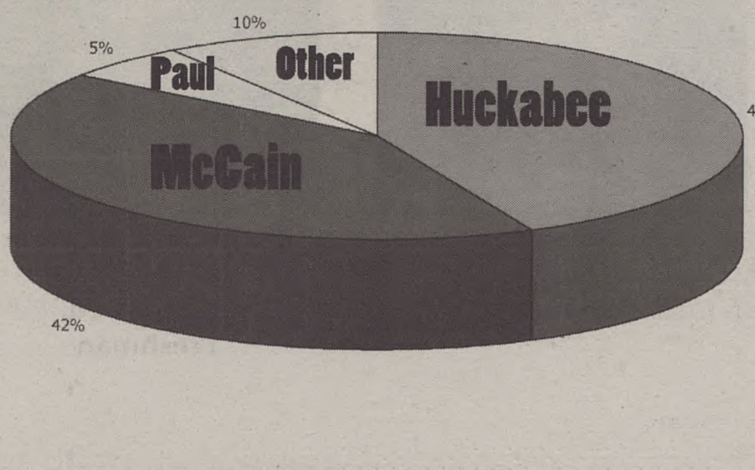
Photo of Dr. Forrest and Nadine Kaskas by Jon Schleuss.

LOUISIANA VOTES



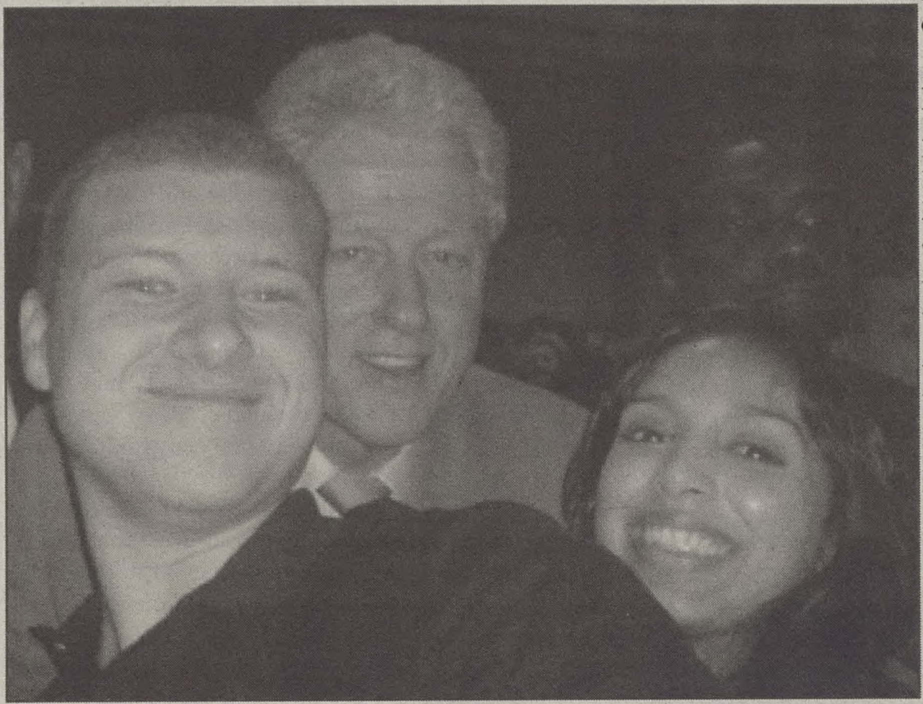
read more on page 10

data from Louisiana Secretary of State website



Letter from the editor: meeting heroes - not always disappointing

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief



Former U.S. President Bill Clinton with Centenary seniors James King and yours truly. Let us please ignore my shiny-red-eye-face, even less attractive in black and white, and focus on the political dream come true in the middle. Photo by Amanda Russell.

I'll keep this short (because I want the picture to be big) – some people have said that it's a bad idea to meet your heroes, because they almost never meet your expectations and almost always disappoint. And before I get flak for calling Bill Clinton a hero, because I'm sure many people disagree (and I can understand why), I just mean it on a personal level. I am a complete politics nerd, and though I myself am not a fan of every single policy decision of his presidency, I do admire him.

He's charismatic, he's smart, he's funny and he's certainly influential – all of those traits, combined with the fact that he was the leader of the United States for eight years, made it a pretty exciting event to meet him. For the actual details of the event, go to page and read about some senior Political Science students' interesting conference trip to Monroe. For now, let me say the experience was one I'll never forget. His voice is just as distinct and magnetic in person as it is on the news, his energy just as impressive – Monroe was the last stop of five in Louisiana and he shook hands and took pictures until everyone was satisfied.

On a similar note – and I imagine many more of you will disagree with me here about the significance of this event – I met Lance Bass of *NSYNC in New Orleans over Mardi Gras break. (!) Again, not that he's particularly heroic in the conventional sense of the term, but to a former hardcore teenybopper, it was pretty fantastic (and he did not disappoint, was very nice, and handled my excited chatter nearly as adeptly as Clinton did). Yes, I am outing myself as a boyband fan, to those of you who didn't already know. I have a picture!, but I'll leave that on Facebook and not take up valuable newspaper space as that's probably not as newsworthy as meeting a former President of the United States.

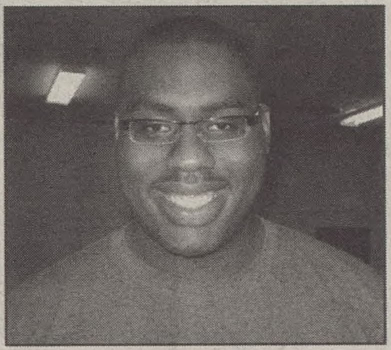
All in all, I've had an exciting week, meeting two icons of the two great loves of my life – politics and pop culture. My new belief is to not listen to what people say about avoiding your heroes; at least if they do turn out to be less than satisfactory, you won't waste any more time with idolization. And in the best-case scenario, you'll walk away with great photographic mementos and an even better impression than you initially had.

Question of the Week

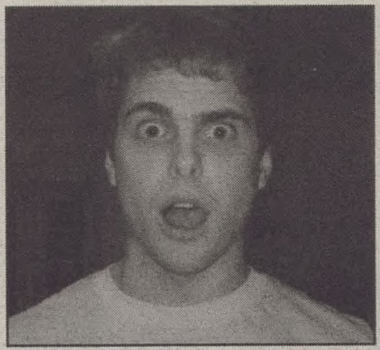
WHOSE CONCERT WOULD YOU BLOW UP?

(pointedly not glorifying a teen's badly planned attempt at blowing up a Hannah Montana concert)

"Doodlebops."
-Emily Brazzell,
Freshman



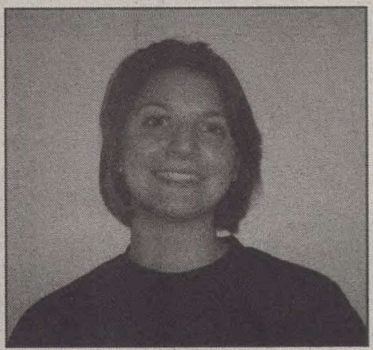
"Paris Hilton."
-Jeremy Fagan,
Senior



"Canaan."
-J. R. Ramsey,
Sophomore

"The Naked Brothers Band."
-Kelly Reed,
Freshman

"Heidi Montag off of 'The Hills.'"
-Mary Ham,
Senior



"Marilyn Manson."
-Katie Craigo,
Freshman

Response to *Shreveport Times* editorial: everyone has the right to freedom of expression, even atheists

Editor's note: On Thursday, February 9, the Shreveport Times published an editorial by two community members urging the public to "stand up and challenge" Centenary's decision to invite Dr. Barbara Forrest to speak. The editorial can be found at http://www.shreveporttimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080207/OPINION04/802070304/1007/OPINION. Below is a Centenary student's response to that challenge.

Dear Chuck Miller and Charlotte Hinson,

As I have never heard Dr. Forrest speak nor have I read any works she may have written, I cannot say whether her intentions or argument is moral or accurate. I can say, however, that your argument is immoral.

In your view it is wrong for an atheist to be invited to speak at a Methodist-funded college. So you are saying that because she is atheist she has little right to express her freedom of speech, which is covered in the Constitution, at any facility, even when she has been invited to do so? Why is that? Is she not just as human as you? Does she not have the right to choose her own beliefs and express them just as you do? Besides, if I am not wrong, this convocation was to talk about evolution and creationism in schools, not religious views.

Every person has the right to choose what religion they want to follow without harm being brought upon them. It was one of the main reasons for the pilgrims to protest the queen of their motherland and thus creating our Constitution, which holds all of these freedoms. Maybe a quote from the First Amendment might clear up both the religious and speech freedoms for you, seeing as you mentioned it.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

-First Amendment; The Constitution of the United States of America

You and probably other people are upset because Centenary provided "absolutely nobody to debate her or to even present the creation viewpoint." The simplest solution I have for this is for you to get up and create a presentation for your viewpoints. If you have no interest in doing this then you obviously don't care to do much of anything but run your mouth. I am quite sure Centenary will give you a floor to speak on so that you can argue what you think is right.

I absolutely love your opinion about using church funds to let an atheist speaker speak to the students of Centenary. What was it that you said? Oh yes, you said, "challenge this college and ask why they're using funds from churches to pay for atheist speakers to have a platform for their liberal ideas that lead youth astray." You kind of sound like the people of Athens when they sentenced Socrates to death for "corrupting the youth." Yet he instilled knowledge among the people of Athens. He helped people realize their ignorance thus giving them the chance to learn. If I'm not wrong, Socrates is one of the more respected and famous philosophers in history.

You clearly state that atheists or those "who lead the youth astray would be better off with a millstone tied to their necks and tossed into the sea." Isn't that a death threat? Are you saying that atheists are better off dead than to be allowed to express their views or their beliefs? Wow, that's quite a bold statement. You, being people of God I presume from your arguments, should be one of the last to wish death upon a person or group of people.

It's quite funny to me to see such faithful people in the Lord and in God break one of the Ten Commandments or wish that it be broken. What makes your religious belief superior to anyone else's? What drives you so mad that you would break one of your sacred laws over another person's religion? As people of the Lord, aren't you supposed to respect the right for other people to choose their own religion? Are you not supposed to be respectful of other's religious views even if they differ from yours? It sounds like God has a hypocrite in his choir.

I say let Dr. Forrest speak her mind and if anyone opposes her, then make your own convocation to express what you believe. Your intentions may be just, but your actions towards your goal are not. You must stay non-aggressive and speak your mind in a civil way. Morality is greater than whose view of how we came to be is superior.

Have a nice day.
Safety and Peace,
Nicholas Nesloney, Freshman

Dr. Forrest discusses intelligent design, cont. from front page

Dr. Forrest said that the book also exposes the absence of science in intelligent design, as well as the political and religious aims of its movement.

After the book was published in 2004, Dr. Forrest was asked to be an expert witness for the plaintiffs in the landmark case Kitzmiller et al. v. Dover School Area District. In this bench trial, the plaintiffs wanted to overturn the school district's decision to teach intelligent design in schools. Dr. Forrest's testimony proved that the textbook in question, "Of Pandas and People," attempted to escape the Supreme Court ruling in Edwards v. Aguillard, which decided that teaching creationism in schools was a violation of the Establishment Clause of the constitution. "Of Pandas and People" substituted terms such as "intelligent design" and "intelligent designer" in place of "creationism" and "creator." Judge Jones ruled in favor of the plaintiffs.

Dr. Forrest is a member of the board of directors of the National Center for Science Education and the National Advisory Council of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. She has appeared on Larry King Live, ABC's Nightline, the BBC's Horizon documentary about the Kitzmiller trial, "A War on Science," and PBS's Nova documentary about the Kitzmiller trial, "Judgment Day."

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FEATURES

CAMPUS/
LOCAL

Homecoming 2008: A Century in the Making...Here's to the next 100

Centenary College
100 years
in Shreveport-Bossier
Celebrating Our History
Launching Our Future
1908–2008

graphic from centenary.edu

Amanda Russell
Staff Writer

Homecoming is considered by many students to be one of the most exciting and jam-packed weeks of the school year. Homecoming celebrations that mark the welcoming back of alumni are a traditional part of colleges, universities, and high schools across the country and the world. Parades, courts, athletics, and other events are traditional parts of Homecoming festivities. If any of you freshmen out there had a bad homecoming experience in high school, this is your chance to make up for all that teenage misery. Centenary College's "Homecoming 2008: A Century in the Making... Here's to the next 100" is not likely to disappoint. With every day of the week filled with fun events, loads of school spirit, and various athletic games, the student body has much to look forward to. The Centenary Homecoming Committee, which is composed of various students from all parts of campus and led by SGA Vice-President of External Affairs Naomi Will, has been working diligently since last semester to plan this special week. This Homecoming is particularly important as a part of the year-long Centennial Celebration commemorating Centenary's first 100 years in Shreveport-Bossier.

The week-long celebration is enhanced by the fact that the SGA will be handing out free Homecoming t-shirts to students at each event. Additionally, organizations will be competing for the $500 prize that goes to the organization with the highest overall participation rate during Homecoming week.

The Homecoming Committee wants to start the week off strong. After decking the community and the area surrounding campus with Centenary flags and banners, the Student Government Association (SGA) will host the Homecoming Kickoff Party in the Fitness Center on Sunday, February 17th at 5 p.m. Instead of eating in the Caf, students will be able to enjoy a free meal in the fitness center along with games and live music. That evening the Caf will host its annual Late Night Window Painting event to get everyone in the Homecoming spirit.

On Monday night, students can meet in the Shell at 8 p.m. to play a campus-wide game of Capture the Flag. Capture the Flag is a traditional group strategy game, but with the Homecoming Committee's creativity, this old-school game is likely to heat up with its new-school spin. You definitely do not want to miss out on this event. I'm bringing out the war paint to do work!

On Tuesday, the Centenary Activities Board (CAB) will host the traditional Homecoming comedian at 9 p.m. in Anderson Auditorium. This year's comedian is Chad Daniels, and I've heard great things about him thus far. Everyone needs a wet-your-pants laugh every once in a while, and CAB's comedians do not disappoint!

Courtesy of SGA and CAB, students will have the opportunity to recreate scenes from "Urban Cowboy" and western bars as they attempt to ride a mechanical bull on Jones-Rice Field from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday. The lights of Jones-Rice Field will later light up as students and faculty battle it out in the annual Student/Faculty Kickball game sponsored by CAB from 5-7 p.m. Who can forget the year Mike Thomas almost pummeled Ben Crimson while sliding into home plate? Don't miss out on action like this!

Traditions are the name of the game for Thursday's festivities. The President's annual Morning Call event will be held at 9:45 a.m. in the SUB. The 100 Year Time Capsule will be opened, and SGA President Holly Williams will ring the President's Bell. At 7 p.m. the Centenary Gents will host Southern Utah at the Gold Dome. The annual canned food drive, Canned Creations, will take place during the pre-game activities, and the Up 'til Dawn Jump Rope-a-Thon will take place during halftime.

There will be some tailgating across campus on Friday, so if you see a bunch of people handing out hot dogs from the back of a truck, you don't have to call DPS. It's just the SGA helping you get your eat on. After attending RHA's Baseball Game T-shirt Making event in the Caf at 11 a.m., baseball fans can head over to Shehee Stadium to watch the Gents take on Northern Iowa at 6 p.m. Afterwards, come to the annual Homecoming Bonfire and gumbo cook-off contest outside the Gold Dome.

Unfortunately, like all good things, Homecoming week must come to an end... but not before more fun! Starting at noon on Saturday, students can head to Shehee Stadium to eat and mingle with friends at a Tailgate and BBQ lunch. The Centenary Homecoming Parade will begin at 2 pm and make its way to the Gold Dome. Come out to catch some goodies and get your first look at the Homecoming Court. The women's basketball team will host Southern Utah at 3 p.m. at the Gold Dome. After the game, the new time capsule will be ceremoniously closed. The men's basketball team will then host UMKC at 5:30 p.m. The Homecoming Court will be presented during halftime, and the new Homecoming Queen and King will be crowned by last year's Queen and King, Georgette Lang and Jeremy Fagan. As if that isn't enough, the SGA will host everyone at a fabulous Homecoming Closing Celebration at 9:30 pm at the Louisiana Boardwalk. More details about this event will be sent via email.

With the schedule in hand, this year's Homecoming will no doubt prove to be one for the record books. Come out for free t-shirts, free food, fun, and loads of excitement that will connect you to the rest of the student body and the Centenary community. Your Homecoming Committee and SGA VPEA have been working extremely hard. Let's all show up and show out this Homecoming week!

Homecoming 2008 Schedule of Events February 17-February 23

Sunday, February 17th
Kickoff Party to Homecoming 2008
FOOD, FUN, & FREE!
Fitness Center, 5-7 pm

Late Night Window Painting
PAINT, PAINT, PAINT IT UP!
Cafeteria, 10 pm

Monday, February 18th
Capture the Flag
LIKE NEVER BEFORE…
Shell, 8-10 pm

Tuesday, February 19th
Comedian sponsored by CAB
LAUGH OUT LOUD COMEDY!
Anderson Auditorium, 9 pm

Wednesday, February 20th
Mechanical Bull Riding sponsored by SGA and CAB
CAN YOU HANDLE IT?
Jones Rice Field, 10:30 am-1:30 pm

Student/Faculty Kickball Game sponsored by CAB
Jones Rice Field, 5-7 pm

Thursday, February 21st
Morning Call
OPENING OF THE 100 YEAR TIME CAPSULE!
Student Union Building, 9:45 am

Founders Day Convocation
Brown Chapel, 11 am

Men's Basketball Game vs. Southern Utah
Gold Dome, 7 pm
Canned Creations, Pre-game
Up 'til Dawn Jump Rope-a-Thon, Halftime

Friday, February 22nd
Tailgate
Various locations around campus, 11 am-1 pm

Baseball Game T-shirt Making sponsored by RHA
Cafeteria, 11 am-1 pm

Men's Baseball Game vs. Northern Iowa
Shehee Stadium, 6 pm

Bonfire and Gumbo Cook-off
Gold Dome, after the Men's Baseball game

Saturday, February 23rd
Tailgate and BBQ Lunch
Shehee Stadium, 12 pm-1:30 pm

Centenary Homecoming Parade
Woodlawn Avenue, 2 pm

Women's Basketball vs. Southern Utah
Gold Dome, 3 pm
Closing of Time Capsule, End of game

Men's Basketball vs. UMKC
Gold Dome, 5:30 pm
Homecoming Court Presentation, Halftime

Homecoming Celebration
Louisiana Boardwalk, 9:30 pm-2:30 am
Transportation--Meet in Jackson Parking Lot

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2 FOR 1 WINE, WELL, AND DRAFT
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Student Government Association

Notes from the SGA meeting at 8:00 p.m. on February 12th, 2008, in the Centenary Room:

Resolutions passed:

Resolution 0708_29 to allocate $1,480 to the Alpha Sigma Chi (Chemistry Club) to attend the National American Chemistry Conference from April 6th-10th.
- Amount awarded: $760

Resolution 0708_30 to allocate $2,400 to the Christian Leadership Center to attend a mission trip to Mexico scheduled for March 14th-19th of 2008.
- Amount awarded: $1,500

Resolutions tabled for next week:

Resolution 0708_32 to allocate $1,300 to the AED hosted Annual Crawfish Boil on Saturday, April 12th.

Resolution 0708_33 to allocate $350 to the Wilderness Club to fund activities for the Wilderness Club.

The next SGA meeting is at 8:00 p.m. on February 19th, 2008 in the Centenary Room!

New scholarships help TKE members with tuition costs

Amanda Russell
Staff Writer

As if moving to a new house, hosting the biggest and most anticipated parties of the year, and garnering a host of fantastic new members during recruitment aren't enough, the Iota-Theta chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon has gone and done it again… and by "done it again," I mean "been hugely successful and buzzworthy around campus."

The TKEs of Iota-Theta officially established annual and endowed scholarships on January 14, according to a Centenary College news release. The Iota-Theta chapter, President Schwab, and Vice President for Development Kathy Fell met in the newly revamped Nelson Boardroom to celebrate the occasion. The scholarships are designed to help TKE brothers with the cost of tuition.

TKE Treasurer Matthew Wallace headed the project to establish the scholarships. Recognizing that some members have struggled with paying tuition and dues in the past, Wallace decided it would be beneficial to establish these scholarships to help with members' expenses. He also noted that this would be a great way for the alumni to give back to the chapter.

According to TKE Secretary William Takewell, the scholarships are "a great idea. These need-based scholarships help TKEs cover their monthly dues, insurance, and initiation fees." Takewell also stressed that the scholarships are a great way to help members "who really deserve it." For more information on the Iota-Theta chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon, contact tke@centenary.edu.

ESPN names "Ladies and Gents" in list of nation's best mascots

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

As most of you are familiar with, unless you have been living under a rock for the past year or have not been reading the Conglomerate like a good Centenary student, we have been dealing with controversies involving the mascot.

A quick recap: despite the protests of many students and through many miscommunications from the people involved with the selection of the mascot, Centenary has a dog that appears at most major functions and at the sports events. However, there has been confusion on whether we will remain the Ladies and Gents or whether we will be the Centenary Catahoulas.

Recently, ESPN very ironically named the Ladies and Gents as one of the top mascots in the nation. Based on the selections here, it was obvious that the more unusual or original mascots were the ones that seemed to make the list.

So, where did Centenary sit? The Ladies and Gents, according to ESPN, are the number six best mascot in the country. The article tells the well known story of how we gained the moniker (our football was so dirty at one time that then President George Sexton told the players that they would play like Gentlemen from now on and the name stuck). It also says that the name Ladies was attached to the school when we started to field women's sports in the 1960's.

The article also mentions that we recently acquired Skeeter the Catahoula, but conveniently does not mention the recent mascot controversies.

Mascots that ranked higher than the Ladies and Gents in the countdown were the Keelhaulers from California Maritime Academy, the Ichabods from Washburn University, the Geoducks from Evergreen State College, the Cobbers from Concordia College, and, naturally, the Banana Slugs from the University of California-Santa Cruz.

Ranked behind the Ladies and Gents were the Profs from Rowan University, the Stormy Petrels from Oglethorpe University, the Student Princes from Heidelberg College, and the Trolls from Trinity Christian College.

To the fans that support the Ladies and Gents and do not wish to see it removed, this article is very heartening and seems like the perfect ending to the entire controversy surrounding the school's mascot.

We can now say that we have one of the best mascots in the country (if not one of the most intimidating thanks to a list by Playboy magazine last year).

Black History Month 2008

Did You Know?

Dione Wrenn
Guest Contributor

Black History Week was established by Carter G. Woodson to recall and celebrate the positive contributions to our nation made by people of African descent. The first celebration occurred February 12, 1926. For many years, the second week of February was set aside for this celebration to coincide with the birthdays of Black abolitionist/editor Frederick Douglass and our 16th President Abraham Lincoln. It wasn't until 1976 that it was expanded to Black History Month as a part of the nation's bicentennial.

Black History Facts

- As of July 1, 2004 - 33% of Louisiana's population was identified as black.
- 2.3 million: The number of black college students enrolled as of the 2005 school year. This was an increase of roughly 1 million from 15 years earlier.

Notable Persons

- Carter G. Woodson (1875 – 1950): Historian and Educator. Woodson devoted his life to making "the world see the Negro as a participant rather than as a lay figure in history." To this end he established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (1915); founded in 1916 and edited (1916-1950) the Journal of Negro History, a quarterly; organized the first annual Negro History Week in 1926; and founded in 1937 the Negro History Bulletin, a monthly.
- Mae C. Jemison (1956 -): Astronaut and Physician. Jemison became the first African-American woman ever admitted into the astronaut training program. On September 12, 1992, she flew into space with six other astronauts aboard the Endeavour. Jemison served as the science mission specialist and spent slightly over 190 hours in space. After her historic flight, she noted that society should recognize how much both women and members of other minority groups can contribute if given the opportunity.

Advice from Allison: false first impressions and battling rumors

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

The opinions and ideas expressed in this article do not in any way reflect those of Centenary College, the Conglomerate, or the writer herself. In fact, these ideas probably don't express any intelligently informed opinions anyway.

Dear Allison,

I just started dating a girl who at first seemed to be really great. She was hilarious, sweet, and very thoughtful. Now she has turned into a really mean, selfish person. Should I break up with her, or should I wait it out in case it is just temporary?

Freaked-out Freshman

Dear Freaked-out,

You never really can tell what people are going to be like when you first start dating them. They can start out really wonderful and straight, and by the time you break up with them they are still wonderful, but not as straight. It is possible that this girl put up a façade in order to get what she wanted: you. Now that she is comfortable with you, her real self will come out more over time. Odds are that this extreme change in her mood is permanent and is just the tip of the iceberg. My advice is to break up with this girl if her personality change is not working for you... unless you're into that sort of thing. If you're into that sort of thing, then it should work for you. Whatever works for you, man. I'm not judging you. Really, I'm not.

Dear Allison,

Lately I've been hearing rumors that guys I've been involved with in the past are saying some pretty awful things about me. I've racked my brain trying to think of anything I did to them, and I do not know why they are suddenly being so mean to me behind my back. Should I confront these guys about this problem, or should I just leave it alone?

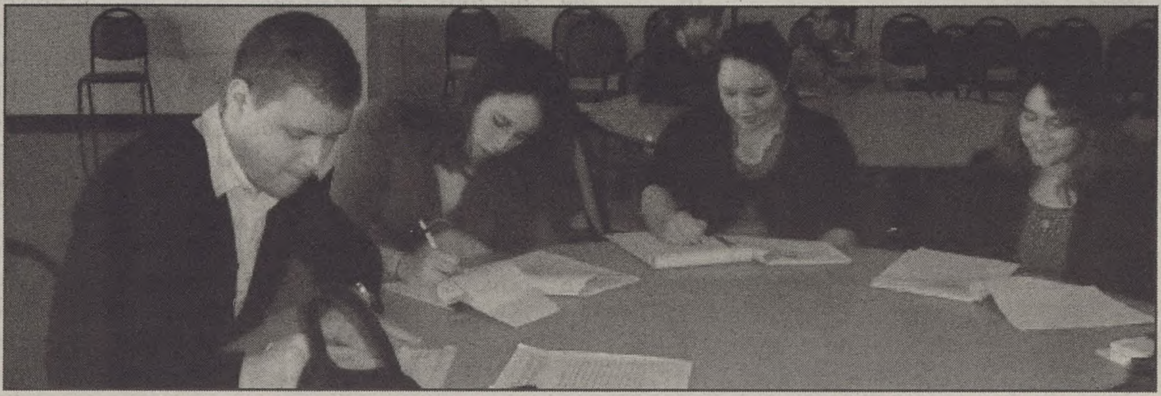
Scandalous Senior

Dear Scandalous,

Sometimes ex-lovers get angry for no reason. Despite an amicable end to the relationship (or whatever it was), some people will still get messy and petty over the whole thing. I find that boys tend to be pretty terrible about doing that. Perhaps it is their insecurity over the situation that causes them to spread rumors about you. Maybe they got attached and are trying to cut you out of their lives by making themselves believe the things they are saying. These guys will often talk it up to their friends in order to save face over the end of the relationship, and these friends will spread the rumor. We all know how rumors spread on this campus. But I do know for sure that Britney heard from Robert who heard from John that you are kind of desperate and needy. Oh, and Sarah said that Brett heard from Josh that he thought you were kind of pushy and talked too much. Maybe you need to work on these things.

Political science students attend conference, meet Bill Clinton

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief



Senior Political Science students working to earn their degree with honors presented their research thus far at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Political Science Association last weekend in Monroe. The hard-working students also enjoyed an added bonus – seeing and meeting former President Bill Clinton.

Though the two events were separate, they coincided nicely – this young group of politics-lovers was excited to hear that Clinton was in Monroe campaigning on behalf of his wife at the same time as they were in the Northeast Louisiana town for the conference.

Seniors Ali Hilsher, James King, Laura Pryor, and Amanda Russell each presented their own individual research (yours truly served as a discussant) at the University of Louisiana-Monroe on February 8 and 9. They were all on the same panel, entitled "Contemporary Problems in American Politics," and Dr. Kevin Unter from ULM was the other discussant. Centenary Professor of Political Science and department head Dr. Rodney Grunes served as the panel chair. The Provost's office funded the trip, including registration and hotel fees.

Hilsher's research centers on the political influence of the Christian right in current politics, and whether that influence has increased or decreased since the 2004 election. Such research is especially pertinent in the run-up to the 2008 election, as Christian right heavyweight James Dobson has said he will not vote for John McCain (the presumptive Republican presidential nominee) and many seem to agree with him.

"While some of the other student presenters concentrated on current events," said Dr. Grunes, referring to other panel topics about the election of Governor Bobby Jindal and the ongoing effects of Hurricane Katrina, "the Centenary students presented serious scholarship that generated an hour's worth of discussion. Therefore, our students did much to enhance the quality of the conference."

King presented on the voting behavior of Hispanic Catholics as opposed to Hispanic evangelicals, also relevant to today's presidential campaign. The Hispanic vote is being widely touted in the media as a key factor in the primaries and caucuses, especially for the Democrats (Hillary Clinton's success in California was partly based to the support of Hispanic voters).

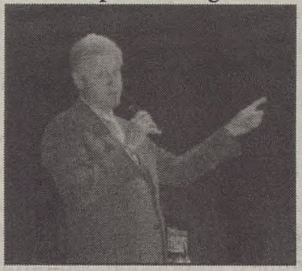
All those hours of studying presidential campaigns past and present paid off in the form of a trip to see Bill Clinton. Clinton was at the CenturyTel Hangar of Monroe Regional Airport giving a speech supportive of wife Hillary's presidential bid to a crowd of approximately 500 supporters. All Centenary students present (including those who were not conference attendees, but had driven in for the occasion) had the opportunity to briefly meet the former President and shake his hand – in some cases, more than once.

"To touch the hands of the man who was once the most powerful person in the world is inspirational and really makes the President seem more like a human being than a celebrity or some distant political figure," said Russell. "And I love President Clinton's 'Bill-voice!'"

The distraction in the form of such a powerful embodiment of politics did not deter the students from focusing on their presentations, however. Pryor's paper is about rational choice theory and drug courts – namely, evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of drug courts as a method of rehabilitation for juvenile offenders. As Dr. Unter said himself during the panel, rational choice theory is often deemed too complicated for even graduate students or those with doctorates, but Pryor described her research in a clear and understandable way.

Russell's research concerns critical race theory – evaluating the theory that the current American legal system is unfairly biased against blacks. Her methods include studying specific Supreme Court cases that pertain to equal educational opportunities, and her conference presentation sparked much interest from Grambling students and professors.

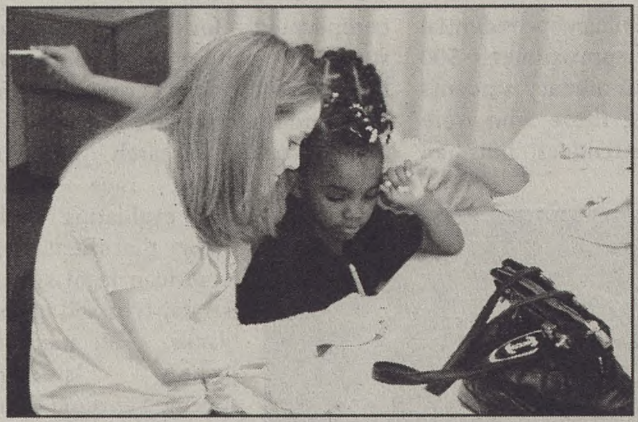
The Grambling contingent had presented before Centenary on similarly race-related issues, like analysis of the Jena Six and the campaign of Barack Obama. Other universities represented at the conference were Northwestern (Louisiana), Stephen F. Austin, Nichols State, McNeese, LSUS, LSUA, and hosts ULM. The topics ran a wide political gamut from international law to state affairs.



"The conference was a great way for me to present my research and practice for my senior seminar defense in April," said Russell. "The Provost and our department are much appreciated for their help in sending me to ULM."

Top: Centenary seniors (from left to right) James King, Ali Hilsher, Amanda Russell, and Laura Pryor prepare for presentations at the state political science conference. Photo by Versha Sharma.
Bottom left: Bill Clinton greets Hillary supporters. Photo by Amanda Russell.
Bottom middle: Clinton poses and talks with people at the Monroe rally. Photo by Ali Hilsher.
Bottom right: Bill Clinton discusses wife Hillary's platform in Monroe. Photo by Amanda Russell.

Zeta Tau Alpha partners with Providence House



Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

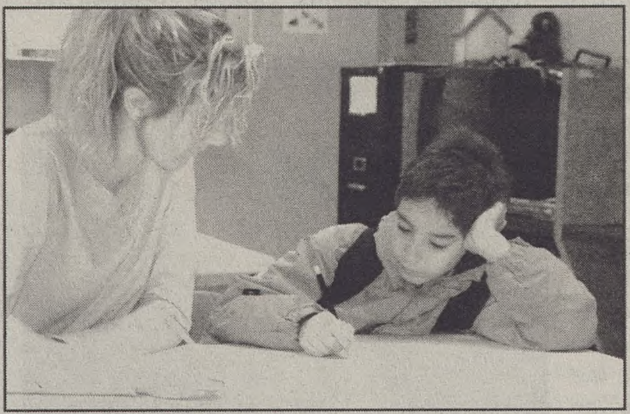
Centenary's Zeta Tau Alpha engaged in somewhat of a partnership with local service organization Providence House, in which the sorority members went on-site to participate in a series of volunteer shifts with tasks ranging from tutoring children and serving meals to organizing donations.

Providence House is a residential development center for homeless families with children, providing comprehensive support services for improving the family structure. The aim of the central program that the Providence House provides is to break the cycle of homelessness by helping families move into independent living.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, "Most Americans underestimate the problem of homelessness affects families. About 600,000 families and 1.35 million children experience homelessness in the United States. Between 150,000 and 200,000 are homeless for long periods or have repeated episodes of homelessness."

A policy report from the Alliance said, "Homeless people suffer from high rates of mental and physical health problems exacerbated by living on the streets and in shelters. The lack of residential stability makes healthcare delivery more complicated. Health conditions that require ongoing treatment—such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, addiction, and mental illness—are difficult to treat when people are living in shelter or on the streets. In addition to chronic health problems, approximately half of homeless people suffer from mental health issues."

In the Providence House Annual Report for 2006, Board President Arthur Thompson and Executive Director Simone Hennessee said, "The long-term impact [of the Providence House program] is self-sufficient families who are no longer a burden on community resources; they become community builders and part of the solution to homelessness. Children of these families are far more likely to grow into productive members of our community by modeling what their parents have accomplished through the program."



Assistant Director of Programs Yolunda McGee said, "We need volunteers all the time. The great thing about the Providence House is that it is not a strenuous commitment, you can just volunteer whenever it fits into your schedule. Whenever you're available is good because there's always something to do. However, we especially need tutors to help with the after-school program with the children."

McGee said, "Tutors are essential to a successful education for these kids. There's a greater need in the spring through the summer because we generally have a flood of tutors for the beginning of the school year, and then not nearly enough in the spring. We'd also love to have volunteers for the summer to swim with the kids and such [participate in other outdoor recreational activities]."

According to the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act of 2001, "Homelessness itself has a devastating impact on children's health and development. For example, students experiencing homelessness tend to suffer from: poor nutrition, inadequate nutrition and health care, health problems associated with overcrowded and communal living situations, increased incidence of other health impairments, higher exposure to violence, and severe emotional stress. Homelessness often leads to frequent moving and upheaval, which eliminate the feelings of safety, stability, and predictability that are so important for healthy growth."

Madalyn Allen, a freshman Business Finance major, said, "It was such a great experience to volunteer with the children. They were so receptive to the tutoring, and so grateful that there were people willing to help. They had a really positive attitude that made the one-on-one tutoring sessions that much more rewarding."

McGee said that currently the Providence House has 37 families living in it, including 74 children. She said that including the off-site apartments with the on-site residents, the Providence House is currently helping 74 families and 157 children total.

Madison Durapau, a senior English major, said, "It was definitely an interesting experience [to volunteer there], and the people who work there are completely committed to making a difference in our community. The latest data shows that 100% of the single women they've helped moved out of homelessness successfully."

Morgana Broussard, President of the Centenary chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha, said, "I'm so proud of these girls for working so hard to give back to the community. They dedicated their time to a very worthy cause, and I know they got a lot out of their experiences doing arts and crafts with the children, gardening, and serving meals."

Broussard, a junior Neuroscience major, said, "Community service is an integral part of our sorority and we will definitely continue to be involved with Providence House in the future. I'd absolutely encourage everyone at Centenary to get involved as this is a great volunteer opportunity that can fit into any schedule."

To volunteer at the Providence House, please call 318-221-7072. For more information about the Providence House, please visit their website at http://www.theprovidencehouse.com/.

For information about national data on family homelessness and single mothers, hunger, domestic abuse, and the effect on children, please visit http://www.theprovidencehouse.com/links.cfm.

Top, middle, and bottom: Members of Zeta Tau Alpha work with children of Providence House. All photos courtesy of Kevin Jenkins, Direct Marketing Specialist for the Providence House.

NATIONAL NEWS

Tornadoes ripped through the South last week, crossing five states, killing 54 people, and injuring many more. Above is just one sample photo of the destruction caused, courtesy of www.cbsnews.com.

California introduces the first marijuana vending machine

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

In recent news in California, the first marijuana vending machines have been opened to allow easy access to the drug. However, many people believe this is open to the public when really, the machines can only be used by patients who are prescribed marijuana for medical reasons.

The machine was developed by Los Angeles medical-marijuana dispensary owner Vincent Mehdizadeh to help patients by cutting down on overhead costs and providing a convenient way to get their ounce of pot per week. The machine, recently installed at Herbal Nutrition Center, requires patients to get a prepaid card before accessing the machine. It has a card swiper and a video camera that takes a photo of any user and adds it to the database to prove the card is theirs; furthermore, it is protected by armed security guards.

Not only does the machine dispense marijuana legally, it also has a variety of pot: Platinum Kush, Fire O.G., Bubba Kush, Purple Kush, and Wild Cherry (and they don't mean the flavor of soda).

The machine is supposed to offer convenience to patients who need the drug to ease anything from chronic pain to sleeping problems. Having a vending machine for medical marijuana would reduce the number of robberies that the dispensaries face, Mehdizadeh says. The Valley, according to LA Daily News, has seen 13 medical-marijuana dispensary robberies in the past two years, including two this month.

Many believe that Mehdizadeh's machine will likely be a milestone in the medical-marijuana movement. This kind of advance in the movement toward legalizing marijuana could either lead to many state-wide legalizations for medical marijuana or, alternately, lead to a federal law prohibiting states from making the decision to legalize marijuana, even for those who medically need it.

A law in California, approved in 1996, legalized marijuana for medicinal purposes and allows dispensaries, and the new vending machine, to operate. Allen St. Pierre, executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, says that this step forward is one of few benchmarks over the past 15 years advancing the reform of marijuana usage.

Anywhere other than California, and this type of news story would be on the front page. But, it's California, so what would you expect?

Tornadoes ravage the South, kill 54

Beth Craft
Staff Writer

Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Alabama suffered damage on Tuesday, February 5, from multiple tornadoes. Reuters reports that as many as 69 tornadoes struck, according to unconfirmed reports of the National Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma.

Tennessee seems to have taken the brunt of the storms' attacks. Thirty people were killed, and hundreds more were injured. On Wednesday, February 6, 13 schools and 16,744 homes in Shelby County were still without power. The International Herald Tribune reports that firefighters responded to more than 500 calls for help in a 24-hour period.

Union University in Jackson, Tennessee, will be closed for two weeks due to damage. USA Today reports that 51 students were hospitalized, nine of which remain in the hospital with serious injuries. Eight students were briefly trapped in wreckage.

David Dockery, president of the university, predicts 40 million dollars in damage to the campus. Forty percent of the dormitories were destroyed, another 40% were heavily damaged, and two major academic buildings suffered "extensive damage," according to the International Herald Tribune.

Weather Channel meteorologist Buzz Bernard claims that this outbreak was the second deadliest February outbreak since 1957. He also said that the tornadoes were "triggered by unusually warm and moist air moving North ahead of a potent cold front," as reported in USA Today.

President George W. Bush has pledged federal assistance to the governors of the states affected, saying, "Loss of life, loss of property--prayers can help, and so can the government. I do want the people in those states to know the American people are standing with them."

Super Tuesday: McCain wins, Democrats close

Super Tuesday identifies a Democratic face-off and promotes a Republican frontrunner

Beth Craft
Staff Writer

After the primaries and caucuses of February 5, 2008, dubbed "Super Tuesday," the Democrat and Republican nominees face different battles.

Hilary Clinton and Barack Obama stand at a near face-off, with both having gathered ample delegate votes.

On Super Tuesday Clinton claimed victories in California, Massachusetts, and New Jersey, key states that StarTribune.com reports Clinton's campaign was worried about losing. Also reported was the victory of Obama in 13 states including Idaho, Missouri, and Alaska. Obama "has steadily gained ground as he has become better known."

The Republican Party now has an identified frontrunner. Senator John McCain loomed over Mike Huckabee with 714 delegate votes to Huckabee's 211 votes after Super Tuesday (and now leads with even more; see article on page 10). Romney pulled out of the race on Thursday. When Huckabee was asked whether he was going to withdraw or not, he replied, "Am I quitting? No, I am not."

Huckabee uttered these words on Saturday morning at the Conservative Political Action Conference, where CNN claims that not one supporter could be found who believes Huckabee will win the White House. CNN further reports Huckabee as saying, in response to the statistical odds, "I know the pundits, and I know what they say: The math doesn't work out. Well, I didn't major in math; I majored in miracles. And I still believe in those, too."

Huckabee says he will not drop out until McCain secures the number of delegates needed to secure the nomination. "Then we'll see," he says.

Obama sweeps recent primaries, McCain maintains lead

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama has gained significant momentum in the race for delegates with several straight wins in a row, starting with Louisiana, Washington, and Nebraska last Saturday and following through with the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia on Tuesday, February 12.

Though Obama and Clinton are close in the delegate count, his percentage lead state-by-state seems to be widening over Clinton, looking at the results of the Chesapeake or Potomac Primaries (so called for the bodies of water in the region). In the D.C. primary, he won 75% to 24%; in Maryland, he led 60% to 37%, and in Virginia, an open primary, he won 64% to 35%. However, because the Democratic party does not employ the "winner-take-all" method of delegation that the Republicans use, the numbers are still tight.

According to CNN.com, Obama has 1,253 delegates while Clinton has 1,211. These numbers include pledged delegates and superdelegates, though some warn about including the latter into totals because they are not technically bound to vote one way or the other (they can decide come convention time). The amount needed to win the party's nomination is 2,025.

Meanwhile, the race for the Republican nomination is far from close – Senator John McCain leads with 827 delegates while former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee trails with 217 and Ron Paul has 16. The number needed to secure the nomination is 1,191.

Mitt Romney drops out

The change to the Republican numbers came after former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney unexpectedly dropped out of the race last Thursday, February 7. After losing many Super Tuesday states to McCain, he vowed to fight on, but then announced his withdrawal from the race on account of not wanting a Democrat to win the White House and "surrender to terror."

Clinton shakes up campaign staff

After losing Louisiana, as well as the states of Washington and Nebraska, Clinton switched campaign managers. Patti Solis Doyle will now be a campaign adviser, while Maggie Williams will take on the important managerial role.

The Clinton campaign is now looking forward to the Texas and Ohio primaries, which take place on March 4. James Carville, the famed political strategist and advisor for Bill Clinton and a Hillary supporter, bluntly stated that "if she loses either Texas or Ohio, this thing is done" in the Orlando Sentinel. Texas is a significant potential win because of the 200-plus delegates. Clinton and Obama will debate at the University of Texas at Austin next Thursday, February 22. The debate will be broadcast on CNN and Univision.

LOUISIANA DEMOCRATIC VOTES

Barack Obama	220,550	57%
Hillary Clinton	136,908	36%
John Edwards*	13,026	3%
Joe Biden*	6,177	2%
Bill Richardson*	4,255	1%
Christopher Dodd*	1,924	1%
Dennis Kucinich*	1,404	0%

Total votes: 384,244

*denotes Democrats who were on the ballot but who had actually dropped out of the race before February 9.

Louisiana votes, Democrats question disenfranchisement

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

The Louisiana primary was held last Saturday, February 9, with Obama and Huckabee winning their respective fields (see graph for more details). Exit polls showed that Hurricane Katrina victims were more prone to vote for Obama than Clinton.

Exit polls conducted by CNN also showed that the economy was the most important issue to Louisiana voters, whether Republican or Democrat. These figures state that 46% of Democrats ranked the economy at the top of their issue list, while 33% of the Republicans did the same. The next highest issue for Democrats was Iraq with 29%, followed by healthcare at 23%. The second most important issue for Republicans was a tie between illegal immigration and terrorism at 21%, followed by the war in Iraq with 20%.

The Obama campaign actually sent out an email the day of the primary, concerned with reports that Democrats were being turned away at the polls. Democrats all across the state were reporting that they were not allowed to vote either because they were not registered or their party had been switched to independent or Republican. According to the campaign staff, hundreds of Louisiana Democrats were told this at the polls, but apparently never switched their party affiliation. The email sent out by the campaign notified voters that they could still vote in the primary by requesting a provisional ballot, which the Secretary of State confirmed (the campaign also submitted an "urgent request for assistance" to the Secretary of State's Division of Elections, according to the website).

LOUISIANA REPUBLICAN VOTES

Mike Huckabee	69,590	43%
John McCain	67,540	42%
Mitt Romney*	10,222	6%
Ron Paul	8,587	5%
Fred Thompson*	1,603	1%
Rudy Giuliani*	1,593	1%
Alan Keyes	837	1%
Jerry Curry	521	0%
Duncan Hunter*	368	0%
Daniel Gilbert	183	0%
Tom Tancredo*	107	0%

Total votes: 161,151

*denotes Republicans who were on the ballot but who had actually dropped out of the race before February 9.

All information comes from the Louisiana Secretary of State website, www.sos.louisiana.gov. Parish-by-parish results are also available.

Foreigner in Shreveport: impressions of New Orleans Mardi Gras

Editor's note: For those of you who missed (or inexplicably, have forgotten) this series, Jonathan Hedley is an Englishman visiting Shreveport, kindly documenting his observations of the place we call home for The Conglomerate. So far, he's walked right past Mayor Cedric Glover and completed a whirlwind tour of America, from New York to California.

Jonathan Hedley
Contributing Writer

Having been swamped with numerous (three) requests for more 'Foreigner's first impressions of Shreveport' ramblings, the editor in chief of this glorious publication has asked me to pen once again some of my early impressions of this great town, state and country - this time in the form of my experience of last week's Mardi Gras celebrations in New Orleans.

Now to be fair, the impressions I'm getting now can no longer be termed as 'early,' the first of these columns having been published back in November; but my first visit to New Orleans was – well, I have to think hard to find the right words for this one... Take a fiesta in Spain – when the entire population of any given town becomes nocturnal for a week and does fun things like releasing a few dozen marauding bulls onto the streets. Add that to the drinking culture of the UK and the sheer bohemianism only found in cities like Amsterdam, and we're getting close.

Now stir all that into a big city in America, with a touch of gun culture, a bit of a lingering angst reminiscent of peoples who've been left to the dogs by their supposed protectors, marinade with a few daiquiris and a helping of naked breasts to get those enzymes flowing, and you have a beautiful melee of chaos unlike anything else on the planet.

As we drove into the New Orleans town centre, we got caught in deadlocked traffic – caused by a newly formed dead end on Canal Street. I got out of the car to walk up to the front of the line of cars and find out what was going on, and caught my first glimpse of the madness.

"What does Canal Street look like?"

"It looks like the hurricane only just hit," I said.

We got to Bourbon Street and immediately got caught up in a bit of a crowd surge, which we later learned was due to somebody getting shot about a hundred yards away. Welcome to America.

I'm not a fan of crowds at the best of times, but given the natural high I was on from simply seeing the world famous New Orleans Mardi Gras I managed to get by without frustration. A good thing too I suppose – one sensed that under the party atmosphere there was a subtle element of something to be feared. That's the difference between this place and the fiestas of Spain – you wouldn't worry about accidentally bumping somebody in Spain.

But the smiles and the screams would endure through to the dawn, and that's the indomitable spirit that makes Mardi Gras - that makes New Orleans, I think. What other city could get up and keep on drinking after Katrina? They even make jokes about it – 'I spent the night with Katrina!' Well, if you can't laugh, what have you got?

I can see why the Christian zealots feel the need to protest in the middle of it all - the scene is disturbingly reminiscent of that in the Bible when Moses first descends Mount Sinai with the ten commandments to find his people is a state of lustful euphoria, worshipping idols and well, basically having a Mardi Gras. Ironic, how it's actually a Christian holiday.

Walking around during the day was just as much fun as the night – music and merriment and acrobatics and alcohol - but this time under the sun. People walking around pushing strollers dressed up as floats, makeshift parades stopping traffic, party police booking people for not drinking. But I also managed to take notice of some of this beautiful city too – and the very first thing I noticed about the colonial architecture, the bright pastel colours and shutters and balconies, was that it reminded me of Havana, Cuba.

I don't suppose many readers of this article will be able to relate to this observation, but that was the first thing that hit me. I didn't feel like I was in America; I never felt a city like this could exist in America – especially not in the state of Louisiana. I felt not just out of America, but in a place that would be positively off America's Christmas card list.

In short, I loved New Orleans, though I'm glad in some ways, for their sake, that Mardi Gras only happens once a year. Those who have read my previous observations of New York and California will understand when I say that one day, I'll have to live there.

Other things that have got me thinking in the last few weeks include: being refused entry from a certain infamous downtown Shreveport nightclub for being foreign; having two black girls come and clean the house on Martin Luther King , Jr. Day; the news that around 25,000 people in Louisiana voted for candidates that had already pulled out of the presidential race; and the incorrigible American Democrats who keep voting for Obama over the far safer choice of Clinton. It's nice to see that people haven't lost their dreams to fear.

Both photos taken in New Orleans, around Canal and Decatur Streets, by Jonathan Hedley.

No Valentine's Day for Saudi Arabia; Lebanon remembers a massacre

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

The kingdom of Saudi Arabia banned the celebration of Valentine's Day in order to stick to conservative Islamic principles.

It has become tradition for the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, also known as the religious police or the Muttawa, to stalk the streets looking for florists and shops in violation of the ban every year around February 14. The enforcement is so strict that even simple red roses have become a hot commodity on the Saudi black market.

According to CNN.com, the Commission (several thousand police officers strong) both instructs shop owners to remove red flowers, wrapping paper, gift boxes, and teddy bears from their store shelves and actually raids business establishments to seize the contraband on February 13.

Islamic studies scholar Sheikh Khaled Al-Dossari was quoted in the Saudi Gazette as saying that Muslims should not celebrate a non-Muslim holiday, "especially one that encourages immoral relations between unmarried men and women." The Gazette reported on the red rose black market, stating that they are sold for up to 30 riyal ($8.00 USD) on Valentine's Day, as opposed to the regular price of five riyal ($1.30 USD).

Other countries in the same region, however, such as Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, all enjoy Valentine's Day sales when the holiday comes around. The conflict over the day has reached new heights in Kuwait – even though a high-ranking Islamic cleric issued a fatwa banning the holiday, the supermarkets and florists of the country still sell themed merchandise, with many Muslim citizens citing no conflict between the holiday and their religion.

cont. on next page, 13

Pictured: The Martyrs' Statue in Martyrs Square. The statue honors Lebanese victims from World War One but the square is often used for modern demonstrations. Photo from www.wikipedia.org.

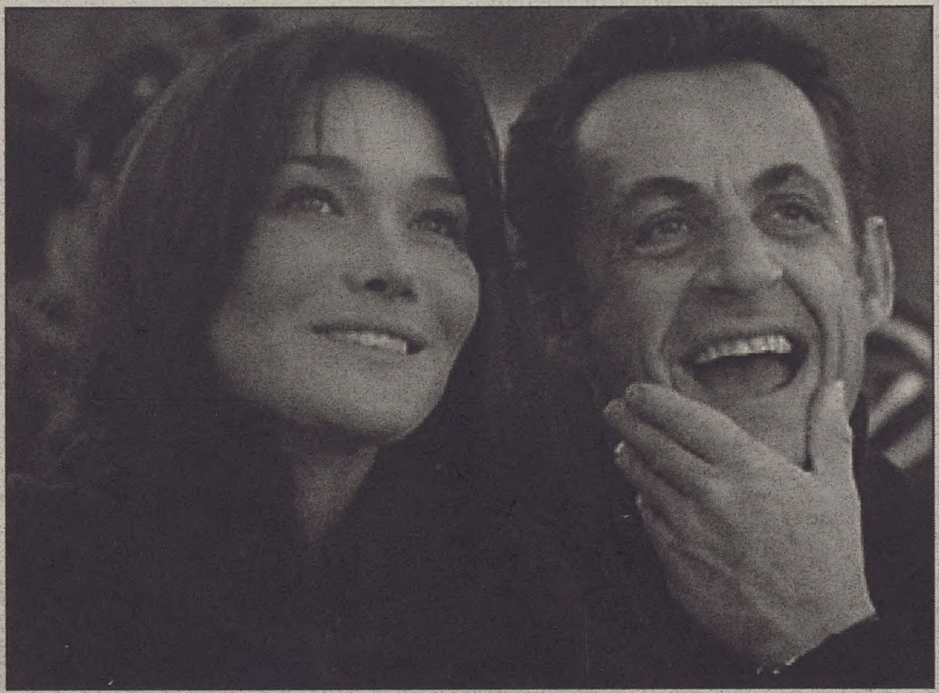
Ex-model singer Carla Bruni weds French President Nicolas Sarkozy

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

Last Saturday ex-model turned pop singer Carla Bruni married French President Nicolas Sarkozy, newly elected last May, at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

One month after a divorce from his wife of 11 years, Sarkozy started seeing Bruni, an Italian-born heiress 13 years his junior. The romance shocked the public as Bruni has been cast as a man-eater who has dated high-profile men such as Eric Clapton, Mick Jagger, Donald Trump, and French former Socialist Prime Minister Laurent Fabius.

Bruni's dating history is further complicated by widespread reporting that she dated the philosopher Jean-Paul Enthoven before starting a relationship with his son, Raphael. Raphael Enthoven left his wife Justine for Bruni, and then had a child with her. Justine wrote a best-selling book about a husband-stealer described as "beautiful and bionic with the eyes of a killer".



Furthermore, the media has been continuously quoting Bruni on an interview she gave to Figaro Madame magazine a year ago, saying, ""I'm monogamous from time to time, but I prefer polygamy and polyandry."

The couple was photographed visiting Paris Disneyland and holidaying in Jordan and Egypt. Media photos of the couple sparked a political backlash in which Sarkozy was nicknamed "President Bling Bling" and a modern age "Sun King" (after Louis XIV).

Also raising eyebrows is the fact that Sarkozy is considered by many to be a staunch right-wing conservative, while Bruni is a leftist who actively demonstrated against Sarkozy's immigration policy last year.

As quoted by Marie Claire magazine, Bruni said, "Oh the tedium that takes hold of me when I do things for the sake of social correctness or out of professional obligation." Many people have expressed concern over Bruni's suitability as first lady. Laetitia Cash, a prospective Tory MP, said, "Is she going to knuckle down to being a First Lady or will she be indulged like a kind of Marie Antoinette? The French expect women to have their place, they will not want someone who is an emotional drain on the president."

cont. on next page, 13

Lebanon remembers St. Valentine's Day massacre, cont. from page 12

Elsewhere in the Middle East, the holiday has taken on more somber connotations because of recent tragic events. On February 14, 2005, Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri was killed along with 22 others by a car bomb in the nation's capital of Beirut.

Nadine Kaskas, a Centenary freshman whose parents are Lebanese and who travels back to the country every summer, said, "February 14 was a huge disaster for a lot of people. Prime Minister Hariri was the one who revived Lebanon after 15 years of war. He brought in a lot of tourists, improved the economy – [Valentine's Day] isn't what it used to be because he was assassinated that day."

The Valentine's Day massacre was commemorated in Beirut yesterday with a rally in Martyrs' Square. The investigation into the planners of the assassination is ongoing and currently conducted by the United Nations. As Kaskas said, "no one has been punished yet," though it is widely speculated and believed that the attacker was the Syrian government.

"The memory of that day is still hanging over us," said Kaskas. "My parents haven't celebrated it since he died. A lot of prominent journalists and MPs who were against Syrian interference in Lebanon were assassinated after February 14."

A response termed the Cedar Revolution was triggered by the death of Hariri, during which activists planned and executed a series of protests with the main aim of getting Syrian troops out of Lebanon. Many of the demonstrations took place in Martyrs' Square. The Syrian troops withdrew completely on April 27, 2005, though antagonism between the two countries continues to this day.

French President Sarkozy weds model Bruni, cont. from page 12

According to Reuters, Sarkozy's popularity ratings have plunged in recent weeks, "with voters complaining that the president was focusing too much on his private life and not enough on the country's many problems." Jean Luc Parodi, director of research at the National Foundation of Political Science, said, "Both Sarkozy and Carla Bruni are going to have to improvise and create a role for her that did not exist in previous presidential protocol."

Causing further uproar is the news that Bruni is now pregnant with Sarkozy's child. According to the Daily Mail UK, a source from the American Hospital in the Paris suburb of Neuilly confirmed that Bruni's visit confirmed her as pregnant. Reporter Allain Jules, who first released the news about the pregnancy, said, "If she is indeed pregnant, it may explain why they are planning to marry so soon after meeting."

Bruni's pregnancy, arriving less than three months after their relationship began, caused Sarkozy's ex-wife Cecilia to publicly insult the couple. Cecilia's new book said, "Sarkozy is ridiculous, badly behaved and not fit to be president" and that the women in his life are a "bunch of slappers." In a new biography of Cecilia written by French journalist Anne Bitton, Cecilia insults Sarkozy's female political colleagues as "boring wallflowers, and now that there is no First Lady, he needs to surround himself with pretty young things dressed in Dior."

What's also being discussed in great detail is that even though Sarkozy has been president for less than a year, he already has three books and several magazine articles dedicated to his love life. Also reported is his attempt to seduce Bond girl Eva Green, who was, according to the Daily Mail, "flattered," but refused due to the fact she was filming a new movie.

Pictured on opposite page: Carla Bruni and Nicolas Sarkozy enjoyed a trip to Egypt together. Photo from www.foxnews.com.

Turkey ends ban of Islamic headscarves at universities

Kari Patterson
Staff Writer

Women attending Turkish universities now have more choice over their wardrobe, as two of Turkey's main political parties joined forces to pass a Constitutional amendment ending the ban of Islamic headscarves at universities. The more conservative ruling party, the AKP (Justice and Development Party), and the leading opposition party, the MHP (Nationalist Movement Party), have been trying for the past several weeks to strike a deal that will bring an end to the controversial headscarf ban. The amendment was passed over the weekend in Turkey's Parliament, but that will certainly not be the end of the change.

Headscarves are incredibly controversial symbols in Turkey, and their use in the political arena has led to an increasing polarization among Turks over what, exactly, they symbolize. The Turkish Constitution is based on secular, rather than Islamic law, and Mustafa Kemal, (called "Ataturk," which means "father of the Turks") the revered first President of Turkey, was a staunch secularist and promoter of the "Western ideal." Because of its pride at having overcome the so-called backwardness of the Ottoman Empire – which many Turks would attribute mainly to Ataturk – Turkey is very proud of its stance as a secular state. The country, but more particularly the military, is also willing to defend that secularism at any cost. During periods when the military leaders feel that the government is becoming "too Islamic," they have staged coups to reassert the primacy of secularism in Turkey's leadership.

As a part of state secularism, female civil service workers and students at universities are prohibited from wearing Islamic headscarves in order to keep the desired separation of religion and state. Until recently, the government has forcibly maintained that the ban was necessary, and by claiming that headscarves' polarizing factors and political association with radical Islamist groups made their prohibition a matter of national security, the Turkish government also managed to have the ban upheld by the European Court of Human Rights in the '90's. They also claim that the ban protects women who might otherwise be forced to wear headscarves against their will by male relatives.

The ban, which has been in place for about a quarter of a century and has been strictly enforced for over a decade, has always been highly contentious. Many Turks claim that it is a woman's right to dress in accordance with her religion if she so chooses, and that denying her this right is a violation of religious freedom. Many women have been expelled from universities for violating the ban, and others have chosen not to attend any university at all rather than to forgo their headscarves.

This debate has been raging in Turkey for several decades, and this newest breakthrough in the political dispute has not toned down any of the controversy. If anything, the AK party (the current ruling party) having roots in political Islam, and the current President of Turkey, Abdullah Gül, nearly being blocked from taking power over the summer because of concerns over his dedication to secularism, have made the situation even more volatile.

To help control the situation, Parliament obviously made some concessions, changing the amendment from a flat-out prohibition of headscarves to a statement that would allow women to wear a particular style of headscarf – loose and knotted under the chin – while still prohibiting many of the more conservative styles.

Despite the toned-down resolution and the combined forces of the AKP and the opposition MH party, it remains to be seen whether the Turkish military – or the Turkish public – will support the change or deem it an affront to the primacy of state secularism.

A&E

Toxicology reports for Heath Ledger's death reveal prescription overdose

Beth Craft
Staff Writer

Fifteen days after actor Heath Ledger was found dead in his Manhattan apartment, the cause of death was confirmed: a prescription overdose.

Ellen Borakave, spokesperson for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in New York, issued this statement: "Mr. Heath Ledger died as the result of acute intoxication by the combined effects of oxycodone, hydrocodone, diazepam, temazepam, alprazolam, and doxylamine. We have concluded that the manner of death is accidental, resulting from the abuse of prescription medications."

The prescription drugs alprazolam (Xanax) and diazepam (Valium) treat anxiety and panic disorders as well as anxiety caused by depression. Oxycodone is a pain medication, hydrocodone treats coughing and pain, and doxylamine treats short-term insomnia. Other prescription drugs found, such as zopiclone (Lunesta) and temazepam (Restoril), are used in the treatment of insomnia.

Though the death was accidental, questions arise concerning the use and abuse of prescription drugs, namely in the Hollywood scene. According to "The National Ledger," Dr. Drew Pinsky of VH1's "Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew" feels that Ledger's death should not be "swept under the rug."

Ledger's family issued a statement on the toxicology report, part of which addressed the prescription drug issue. The family said that although all of the drugs were taken as directed, "Heath's accidental death serves as a caution to the hidden dangers of combining prescription medication, even at a low dosage."

As the world continues to mourn the loss of an actor described as "the next Marlon Brando," Centenary minds can rest assured his death was truly untimely and unintentional.

Review: Latest Rambo installment is a blast from the past

Todd Johnson
A&E Editor

Do you miss the 80s? Do you wish for the days when you could wear parachute pants, listen to Michael Jackson without people looking at you funny, or watch movies with larger than life action heroes who are seemingly invincible as they mow through hundreds of nameless and faceless adversaries? Well, I wish could say that, but I don't. However, Sylvester Stallone does. That is why he decided to make a new Rambo movie titled, cleverly enough, "Rambo".

Like a typical Rambo movie, there is not much of a plot. The movie opens with some very graphic video clips of war-torn Burma. After a flurry of images of mutilated corpses and people being attacked by soldiers, the movie jumps to showing Rambo (Stallone) living his life in Thailand by running a hunting and trapping venture for the locals.

However, he is recruited by some missionaries to enter Burma, which has been in a civil war for 60 years. He reluctantly agrees and drops them off in the country. However, after the missionaries are captured by Burmese soldiers, it is up to Rambo and a team of mercenaries to rescue them from torture and death and to rain unholy hell onto the enemy soldiers.

This movie is pure mindless entertainment, just like a typical 80s action movie (think Rambos 1-3, Delta Force, and the typical Schwarzenegger movie). The plot is bare bones. The characters are thin at best. The missionaries are purely good individuals who only want to make a difference. The mercenaries are all tough-as-nails. And Rambo is Rambo – no talking and a shoot first, ask questions later mentality.

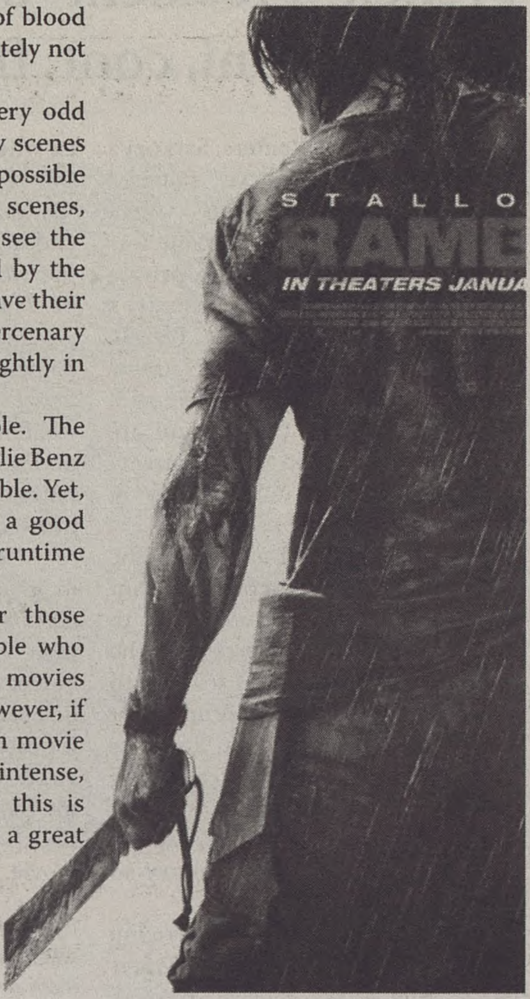
The music, cinematography, editing, and even the credits look like a movie straight from the 80s. This movie is very obviously a love letter to the very cheesy 80s action movie.

However, the movie is also one of the most violent action movies that I have ever seen. Between a village attack in which men and children are gunned down or blown up and women suffer sexual attacks and the final sequence in which Rambo mans a large machine gun and subsequently proceeds to uses it shred an entire enemy battalion to puddles of blood and gore, this movie is definitely not lacking on the gore quotient.

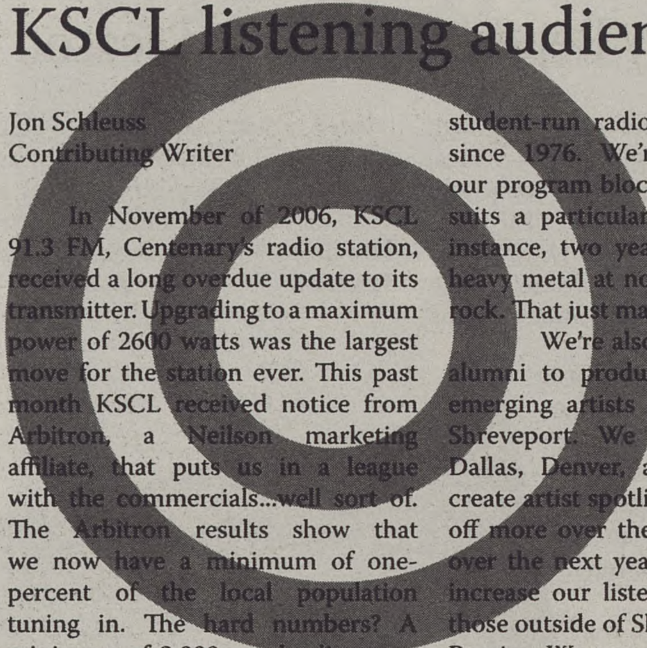
In fact, the movie is very odd because the violence in many scenes is unbearable and almost impossible to watch, whereas in other scenes, I found myself wanting to see the enemy soldiers get shredded by the .50 caliber machine gun or have their heads blown off by the mercenary sniper. Nothing is handled lightly in this movie.

The dialogue is terrible. The acting, save for Stallone and Julie Benz as a female missionary, is terrible. Yet, the film is entertaining and a good diversion for its very short runtime (90 minutes).

This movie is not for those with weak stomachs or people who absolutely despise action movies (especially from the 80s). However, if you want to see a pure action movie in which the action is brutal, intense, and somewhat cheesy, then this is the movie for you. Definitely a great guilty pleasure.



KSCL listening audience increases



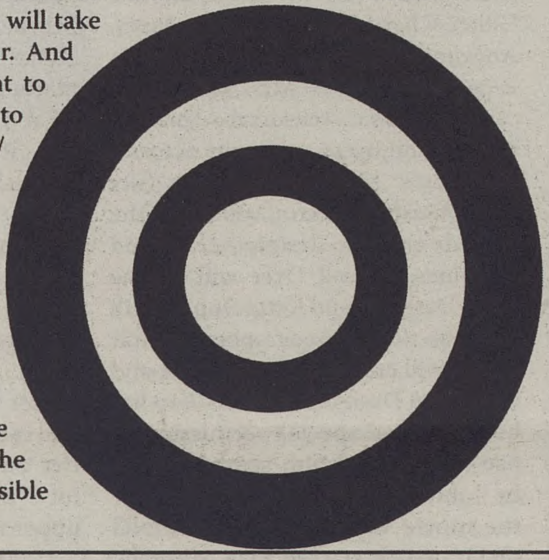
Jon Schleuss
Contributing Writer

In November of 2006, KSCL 91.3 FM, Centenary's radio station, received a long overdue update to its transmitter. Upgrading to a maximum power of 2600 watts was the largest move for the station ever. This past month KSCL received notice from Arbitron, a Neilson marketing affiliate, that puts us in a league with the commercials...well sort of. The Arbitron results show that we now have a minimum of one-percent of the local population tuning in. The hard numbers? A minimum of 3,000 regular listeners.

Any upperclassman knows that this is huge for KSCL, the station that had a hard time reaching Rotary just two years ago. It also means that KSCL has to rethink its programming and community outreach. So, we're doing that. We have a podcast/blog with local music, interviews with traveling Attaway Scholars, and local newsworthy tidbits. This is all still the student-run radio station operating since 1976. We're also rethinking our program blocks and what music suits a particular time of day. For instance, two years ago you'd hear heavy metal at noon. Now, it's indie rock. That just makes listening sense.

We're also working with our alumni to produce programs with emerging artists that don't tour in Shreveport. We have contacts in Dallas, Denver, and New York to create artist spotlights. This will take off more over the next year. And over the next year, we want to increase our listener base to those outside of Shreveport/Bossier. We are set up to stream our music and programs to anyone with an Internet connection. Now, we're just looking for the funding and support. KSCL operates on the same budget and staff numbers it had before the upgrade, but now the pressure is on. Is it impossible to keep this up? We're hopeful. Our new-found listeners sure would be disappointed if we became slackers.

Jon Schleuss is the Station Manager for KSCL. KSCL is a non-commercial, educational radio station operated by the students of Centenary College. KSCL students work with the faculty and staff to create a community focused on ethical and intellectual development. 91.3 FM is our home.



Movie Times

at Tinseltown
27 Dresses: PG-13, 1 hr 47 min
Showtimes: (1:35), (5:00), 7:35, 10:15
Bucket List: PG-13, 1 hr 37 min
Showtimes: (1:40), (4:40), 7:20, 9:55
Cloverfield Rated PG-13, 1 hr 24 min
Showtimes: 10:15
Definitely, Maybe: PG-13, 1 hr 52 min
Showtimes: (1:15), (4:15), 7:25, 10:10
The Eye: PG-13, 1 hr 37 min
Showtimes: (1:25), (4:20), 7:10, 10:00
Fool's Gold: PG-13, 1 hr 50 min
Showtimes: (1:20), (4:10), 7:05, 9:50
Jumper: PG-13, 1 hr 30 min
Showtimes: (2:00), (2:45), (4:45), (5:30), 7:15, 8:00, 9:40, 10:25
Mad Money : PG-13, 1 hr 44 min
Showtimes: (4:00), 9:15
Meet the Spartans: PG-13, 1 hr 24 min
Showtimes: (1:00), (3:40), (5:45), 7:50, 10:05
Rambo: R, 1 hr 33 min
Showtimes: (1:45), (5:10), 7:55, 10:20
Spiderwick Chronicles, The
Rated PG, 1 hr 37 min
Showtimes: (1:30), (2:15), (4:30), (5:15), 7:00, 7:45, 9:30
There Will Be Blood: R, 2 hr 38 min
Showtimes: (3:30), 6:50, 10:25
Untraceable: Rated R, 1 hr 41 min
Showtimes: (1:10), 6:45
Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins
Rated PG-13, 1 hr 54 min
Showtimes: (12:50), (1:50), (3:50), (4:50), 6:40, 7:40, 9:20, 10:20

Review: Bow Wow and Omarion's collaborative album is nothing to boast about

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Two lackluster and washed-up performing artists coming together for a joint venture is nothing new. So when Bow Wow, former teen rapper whose claim to fame came at 13 when he had millions of fans fawning over him, and Omarion, former lead singer of the teenage group B2K, united for an album similar to "Best of Both Worlds," I was not expecting much. I got what I anticipated.

Though not the worst album in the industry, "Face Off" is far from "what the world been waiting on" as Bow Wow proclaims in the song "Hood Star." "Face Off" sounds like songs that Bow Wow had recorded that Omarion was added to at the last minute mixed with songs that Omarion recorded that Bow Wow was added to at the last minute. Few songs actually sound like the product of two recording artists who got together to produce a great album.

"Face Off" sounds like an album full of singles. Not that every song has the potential to be a smash hit single, but the lack of unity, the repetition, the lackluster lyrics and the sorry attempts at metaphors make "Face Off" an album that wouldn't be so bad if the songs were released at least three weeks from one another.

Listening to the album in its entirety at one time causes the aforementioned problems to become even more noticeable. Bow Wow mentions a G5 in nearly every song. In "Girlfriend," Omarion sings about his girlfriend having the body of a stripper no more than 30 seconds after Bow Wow rapped similar lyrics.

Throughout "Face Off," Bow Wow and Omarion brag about the number of albums they've had and how successful they are, but "Face Off" is nothing to boast about. Both of their careers are going downhill anyway. Bow Wow, post-Jermaine Dupri, is a terrible rapper. Jermaine Dupri as a writer gave Bow Wow a likeable factor in his lyrics. Without Jermaine Dupri, Bow Wow's lyrics are overly arrogant and predictable. Omarion as a solo artist is a demonstration of how much he needed a group. Omarion needs a good album right now because he is competing with Chris Brown. Chris Brown has already surpassed him as a dancer. "Face Off" allots him the better album as well.

BOW WOW
OMARION
COLUMBIA RECORDS PRESENTS
FACE OFF

I recommend "Face Off" to those who want to laugh. This album sounds like a parody. It is for fans of Bow Wow and Omarion and those who perhaps want to revisit the artists they had crushes on in their early teens. However, I must warn you that "Face Off" is not a really good album. The beats are good but the lyrics are a mess. They are overly cheesy. "Face Off" sounds like the music that will play as Omarion and Bow Wow compete on "The Surreal Life."

Press Release: "Stepping Out" to open River City Repertory's second season

Shreveport-- Music and tap steps will fill the air when "STEPPING OUT," the award winning comedy by Richard Harris opens River City Repertory Theatre's second season on Tuesday, February 19th at The Scottish Rite Temple. River City Repertory is Shreveport/Bossier City's first professional theatre company that is fully sanctioned by Actor's Equity, the national union for theatre professionals.

Winner of London's Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy and Tony Award-nominated, "STEPPING OUT" follows nine women and one man who are trying to conquer their inhibitions and awkwardness in a dance studio in Buffalo, New York. An ex-professional Broadway dancer tries her hardest to teach the bumbling amateurs tap dancing skills for an upcoming charity event. Each of the students, who come from a variety of backgrounds, has his or her own reason for being in the class. They make a point of coming each week to chat, relax, and if they can manage to, learn a few dance steps.

The steps and routines, however, are just the background for the real focus of this good-natured comedy—the relationships and interactions of ten very different people. The students are truly a hilarious, motley group who finally triumph at their benefit performance and, in the process, learn what has kept them out of sync with life.

Seva May will play Mavis, the dance teacher, with her class comprised of some of the area's most admired actors: Sherry Bouche, Janin Pou, Jodie Glorioso, Bonnie Gillen, Charity Schubert, Pat Maxey, Angelique Feaster and Jenni Loer. Peggy Byers plays Mrs. Fraser, the cantankerous rehearsal pianist. Bouche and Byers are Equity actors.

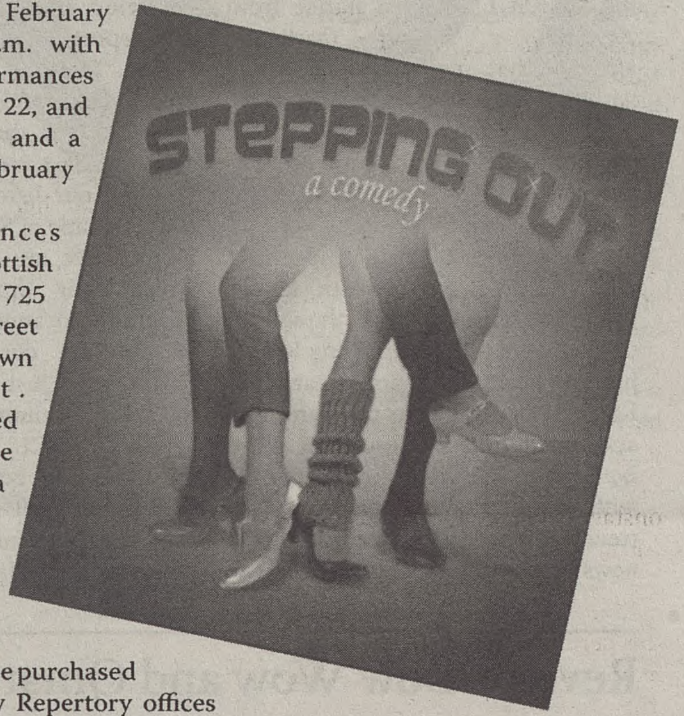
Patric McWilliams, River City Rep's Artistic Director, will direct the comedy and also design the sets and costumes. Russell Dyer will be the Light Designer and Katie Dupont will serve as the Choreographer. Kermit Poling will create Original Music and the Sound Design. River City Rep has been granted special permission to use the original film score, written by John Kander and Fred Ebb for the movie version of "STEPPING OUT" which starred Liza Minnelli, for the RCR production.

River City Repertory is the first Actors' Equity theatre in North Louisiana. It blends the best of local and national talent. The company's first season consisted of "The Little Foxes," "A Little Night Music" and "The Glass Menagerie" which starred Tony Award winner, Donna McKechnie.

"STEPPING OUT" opens Tuesday, February 19th at 7:30 p.m. with additional performances February 20, 21, 22, and 23 at 7:30 p.m. and a matinee on February 24 at 3 p.m.

Performances will be at the Scottish Rite Temple, 725 Cotton Street in downtown Shreveport. Tickets are priced at $35.00 for the center orchestra and center upper tier and $25.00 for the side upper tiers.

Tickets are on sale and may be purchased at the River City Repertory offices located at 2829 Youree Drive Suite #4 or may be reserved by calling the River City Repertory offices at 318-868-5888. Box office hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.



Writers (finally) call it quits and return to work

Courtney Delaney
Layout Editor

We have all felt the effect of the 100-day long writers' strike. Robbed of such vital broadcasts as "Grey's Anatomy," "Desperate Housewives," and "Gossip Girl," we were forced to do more important things with our time, such as watching reruns of "Dawson's Creek" and "Judging Amy." But now, after over three months, the Writers Guild of America has finally dissolved its picket line.

Of the WGA members who voted Tuesday on the fate of the strike, 92.5 percent of members supported the new 3-year contract. With 3,492 voting yea and a mere 283 opposing the motion, writers can return to work, thus bringing back to life television as we used to know it. Mind you, not all the votes are in. WGA members have until February 25 to cast their votes, but until then they will resume work.

The new deal snagged two of the three essential aims of the entire strike. The WGA members will be granted annual pay raises of 3-3.5 percent, control over new media content, as well as payment for the reuse of their work when converted to new media such as DVDs. After this deal was presented, the powers that be of the WGA would have been able to end the strike right then and there, but the executives claimed that they wanted their members to have the chance to make their own choice on the matter.

The strike was not only important in order to ensure that writers were rightfully credited and paid for their work but also in order to guarantee that as media changes and grows they can expand and move forward with it. The fear was that as more and more media is converted to the internet and accessed with such simple tools as cell phones and iPods that the Writers Guild and its members would be left behind, stuck in the limited scope of film and television. Their efforts have certainly paid off.

While writers will be back to their scribbling this week, it is unclear when new episodes of shows will be back on your TV set. It could be 4 to 6 weeks before the production of any of the shows will be completed and ready to air. Some shows, especially late night talk shows such as David Letterman, returned at New Year's. Now, though, they will actually be funny again. (What a relief.)

The Academy Awards is still on schedule for February 24, the date that was announced before the strike ended. Speculations that the awards would be scaled down like the Golden Globes, which could be considered the greatest casualty of the strike, can now be put to rest as writers will begin working on the award show this week.

The WGA should be proud of their hard work; after a long 100 days they can now return to their desks and save us from the hell of never-ending reruns.

Grammys celebrates its 50th year with lackluster performances

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

The Grammys turned 50 this year, and where there could have been a huge blowout celebration commemorating this half a century, there were many performances that did not look like Grammy performances. The Grammy Awards are a time when entertainers are supposed to bring their "A" game. However, many of the performances looked like they were in rehearsal, not on the main stage at the biggest night in music.

Alicia Keys opened the show with a duet with Frank Sinatra. This performance was sweet, but in comparison to last season's "American Idol" finale where Celine Dion performed with Elvis, I watched this thinking of the many ways it could have been better. On "American Idol," it gave the illusion of Celine Dion and Elvis standing next to one another onstage singing. On the Grammys, Alicia Keys was sitting at the piano and Frank Sinatra was on a screen behind her. There were times during the performance where Sinatra was paused and still on the big screen. This would have been much better if there was an illusion of Sinatra on the stage or even if Alicia Keys had been on the screen with him.

Later on in the show, when Alicia Keys came back to perform "No One," it was much better than previous performances on the VMAs and American Music Awards. She still had too much unnecessary movement. She left one piano to dance down the stage and go to another piano. Rather than have a reggae reunion like she did on the American Music Awards, she simply had John Mayer come out, play his guitar, and sing the end of "No One" with her. This made her performance better.

Fergie performed with John Legend playing the piano. John Legend should have sung the first verse because Fergie's vocals were lacking. I think it was nerves, because Fergie got it together as the song progressed and delivered. The performance would have been better with the mellow sounds of John Legend though.

Carrie Underwood performed "Before He Cheats." There was a change in the music that did not help the song. She moved too much in her performance. The movement would not have been so bad had her vocals not suffered. Carrie Underwood's background carried her through parts of the song because she moved too much and ran out of breath. Her performance would have been much better had she stood in one place with a microphone like she did on New Year's Eve.

Rihanna performed with The Time and she should have had more energy with her performance. I was not expecting too much energy from The Time because of their age, but Rihanna should have been a lot more energetic while performing "Umbrella" and very animated while singing "Please Don't Stop the Music." Her Michael Jackson chant demands liveliness, and Rihanna did not deliver.

Beyoncé and Tina Turner gave the best performance of the night. Cher's introduction of Beyoncé was good. Beyoncé's introduction was nice. It would have been better had she not lip-synched it. She mentioned great Black female singers like Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, Chaka Kahn, Donna Summers, Mahalia Jackson, Diana Ross, Lena Horne, and Whitney Houston, and then introduced Tina Turner. It was good seeing Tina Turner perform. She has aged. Her legs are not as trim as they used to be, but Tina Turner is still a great entertainer. When Beyoncé joined her onstage to perform "Proud Mary," it was magnificent seeing Beyoncé perform with an icon she has been compared to throughout her career.

The gospel performance was uplifting, but with powerhouse vocalists like Bebe Winans, The Clark Sisters, and "The Queen of Soul" Aretha Franklin, it should have been much better. The vocals were there, but the attention grabbers were the background. There was a trombone player who held my attention even when the band stood at the back of the stage on risers and the camera panned back.

Kanye West had the most heartfelt performance. With MAMA cut into the back of his head, he performed "Stronger." The light show complemented his ensemble beautifully. When he sang "Hey Mama," he pulled on the heartstrings.

Amy Winehouse had the most anticipated performance. With the visa and drug issues plaguing the news, she could have done a great performance and shown that she was a great artist. Winehouse delivered exactly what I expected, which was not much. She looked high, via satellite. However, the irony of her singing "Rehab" after going to rehab was funny. Nonetheless, Amy Winehouse had the best Grammy night. She was the big winner and did not have to worry about answering questions from the press or winding up on the worst dressed list from what she wore on the red carpet. Amy Winehouse won five Grammys, tying the record of Lauryn Hill, Beyoncé, Alicia Keys and Norah Jones.

The Grammys were not about the awards, so the acceptance speeches were ho hum. The best acceptance speech came from Kanye West. After his rambling, the "exit music" was played and he asked, "You really gon' cut the music on me?" then continued. As he spoke of his mother, the late Dr. Donda West, the music continued to play and he said, "It would be in good taste to stop the music then." The music was turned off.

Rihanna and Jay-Z's joint acceptance speech also had humorous elements. Jay-Z acted like Rihanna's translator twice and then Rihanna held her hand to his chest as she continued speaking.

The Grammys, overall, were all right. They could have been a lot better had the performers been more energetic. This was the 50th Anniversary of the Grammy Awards, and it did not feel like a big celebration. It certainly did not feel like the biggest night in music. This show did not represent the Grammys well and the writer's strike cannot be blamed. A highlight, at least, is that the Grammys were better than the VMAs. However, that is not saying much.

Press Release: Centenary Musical Theater Group presents fourth annual review

Shreveport, La.—The recently chartered Centenary Musical Theater Group presents the fourth annual review entitled "Lovin' Ain't Easy" Saturday, February 16 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Hurley School of Music's Anderson Auditorium.

The auditioned ensemble of more than 30 Centenary students will present songs from a variety of Broadway musicals including Hairspray, Chicago, Spring Awakening, and Avenue Q and will be accompanied by Michael Rafferty on guitar, Kirk Reedstrom on bass, Ruben Reyes on piano, and alumnus Jeremey DelaCerda '06 on drums.

The Musical Theater Group is a student-lead organization unofficially formed in the spring of 2005 by Centenary Alumna Amy Williams '06. Members of the Board of Directors include Co-Musical Directors Adam Philley and Missy Wise, Co-Choreographers Amanda Geneux and Marcus Jauregui, and Artistic Director Jenni Loer.

"The spring review is always one of the highlights of the semester," said Adam Philley, "I have been lucky enough to watch it grow from the very beginning. Receiving a charter from the Student Government Association means this group will be around for years to come."

The production is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Hurley School of Music at 318.869.5235 or e-mail music@centenary.edu.

Reality diversions: Why I love Real World/Road Rules Challenges

Amanda Russell
Pop Culture Princess

It's not easy maintaining loyalty to a "show." Some people have four or five. Planning your life around "Brothers and Sisters," "Boston Legal," "Project Runway," "Desperate Housewives," "Survivor," "Grey's Anatomy," and "American Idol" is not easy. Luckily for me, I currently have one show. And this show is unlike any other on television. Its seasons are inconsistent, its characters vary, the scenery changes, and the story is constantly re-written. If this was a conventional television show, no one would watch it.

Fortunately for the producers over at MTV, this show is a complete success. It is none other than the infamous "Real World/Road Rules Challenge". You can judge me now, but I would suggest you wait because my obsession readily becomes more evident as the article progresses. I can't help it. Real World/Road Rules Challenges are my guilty pleasure. They serve no purpose other than to waste an hour of my life every week. But I would have it no other way.

Amanda and Brad from the Real World

THE CONCEPT: As if the "Real World" wasn't enough, MTV decided to air "Road Rules." Viewers are given the choice of watching gorgeous young people fight and have sex in a house in a hip city or watching gorgeous young people fight and have sex in an RV traveling to exotic locations after they jump out of planes.

In a true stroke of genius, MTV once again owned at life when it decided to combine the two widely popular shows into one challenge show. Little did the producers realize when the first challenge "Road Rules: All Stars" aired in 1998 that 14 more challenge seasons would follow. "RW/RR Challenges" are a pop culture phenomenon. The success is all due to absurd challenges and the craziness of the cast members.

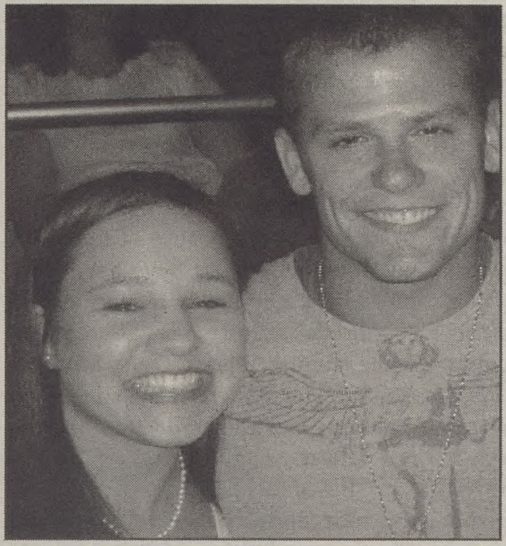
The Challenges: Once a challenge has a host of crazies ready to battle it out for major cash and prizes, MTV devises ridiculous challenges for the cast members. Jumping off of buildings, eating bull balls, getting electrocuted, breaking blocks of ice with sledge hammers, skating in roller derbies, solving complicated puzzles, climbing walls or ladders or poles suspended high above bodies of water, getting buried alive, and climbing mountains carrying bricks are but a few of the extreme things cast members have forced themselves to do in order to win big. After the challenge, the elimination of cast members takes place in the inferno, the gauntlet, in exile, the duel, or by getting voted off by an 'inner circle.'

The Cast: Challenge participants are generally former cast members of the "Real World" or "Road Rules," the exception being a host of newbies from the "Fresh Meat" challenge in 2006. In order to be a cast member one must appeal to MTV's target audience: every pre-teen and college student in America. Not only do you need to be shallow and callous, a cast member must be beautiful, tan, toned, and ready to breed with other cast members.

If not beautiful and thin, then one must be extremely large and comical to counteract a lack of beauty. Cast member Eric would be an example of what I term the "token fat guy." If the token fat guy trait is already taken, a cast member must be so absolutely out of their mind that America doesn't care what they look like. Aneesa or Tina would qualify in this category.

The current challenge airing on MTV is the "Gauntlet III," which pits Veteran cast members against Rookie cast members. There are a host of cast members I love on this season. First, there is Brad, who you may remember from the "Real World: San Diego." I met him when he came to Centenary last year.

After he almost won the "Duel" in 2006, I really think this is going to be Brad's season to dominate the challenge. Secondly, who can't help but love Kenny, originally from "Fresh Meat?" He is so cute and his outtakes are absolutely hilarious. I wish I could be on the show just to see his antics when the cameras aren't rolling.



Amanda and Landon from Road Rules

Evan also has a special place in my reality TV heart. He and Coral dominated the "Fresh Meat" challenge until he pulled a hernia in Episode 5. Although he sometimes appears to be on the cusp of baldness, his frisky antics and sarcastic humor brings loads of fun to what is otherwise a rather intense show. Then you have the transient drunk, C.T., best known from the "Real World: Paris" and for punching out gay Davis and getting sent home early on the "Inferno III." CT is gorgeous and is best described as "a greasy d bag." Last but definitely not least you have challenge queen Coral rounding out the list of favorite cast members. She is sneaky, she is tough, she knows the game, and she dominates – enough said.

Although there are many cast members I love, there are a few I can't stand - two in particular this season. First of all there's Frank. Not only does his hair look fake, but his attitude is fake to boot. He is a sleazy sleaze from Las Vegas who only wants to sleep with girls and pretend to go to grad school. Speaking of blowing, my next least favorite cast member is Jillian, his challenge girlfriend. Strike one was hooking up with Frank. Strike two is being a midget and fooling herself into thinking such absurd thoughts as "I'm the strongest one on my team, that's why they keep sending me into the Gauntlet." No, Jillian. They keep sending you into the Gauntlet because they think other people can beat you because you're a midget.

Although the "Gauntlet III" is everything a challenge junkie could want and more, there are a host of cast members I miss from past challenges. Who can forget Wes? He and Casey got sent into exile so many times on "Fresh Meat" they just started sending themselves in.

Wes was conniving, and his personal comments making fun of his partner were the best part of the "Fresh Meat" challenge.

Let's also not forget Mike aka "the Miz." The Miz was formerly Cora's right hand man and typical crowd pleaser with his strange wrestling alter ego. In typical reality TV star fashion he capitalized on his popularity at the time and started a line of Miz clothing and accessories (No, I do not own any Miz brand items).

Whatever happened to Alton – gorgeous, athletic, and the object of every woman's dream? He was back for the "Inferno III," but I guess the stunning Good Guys defeat was too much for him to handle. Who could leave Veronica off the list? She was sexy, she was bitchy, and she was crazy. MTV needs to bring her back – she's been on seven challenges! Also, one of my all-time favorite cast members is Derrick. He has more heart, more life, more fire, and more passion than any of the other cast members I can remember. After battling it out on six challenges, Derrick achieved success on "Inferno III." Bravo, Derrick, bravo.

Judge all you want, but the "RR/RW Challenges" rock and so do the cast members. As long as MTV is willing to sell this pop culture crap, I'm ready and willing to buy.

SPORTS

NBA takes New Orleans by storm

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

New Orleans Hornets coach and local favorite Byron Scott will coach the West side of the All-Stars in the annual NBA gala this weekend. Scott will be instructing two of his own, Chris Paul and David West, both of whom have been selected for the first time to play in the All-Star game.

The All-Star players and 2,500 other NBA-related people will kick off the event with a service project today, February 15, at ten different sites throughout New Orleans.

Through the All-Star Balloting program, fans around the world were able to vote online, via phone, and in person for their favorite players to participate in this elite event. The actual game will be played on Sunday, February 17, and broadcast live on TNT and ESPN Radio.

The fan favorites who were selected to compete are as follows:

Eastern Conference All-Stars
Jason Kidd (New Jersey Nets) – starter
Dwyane Wade (Miami Heat) – starter
Kevin Garnett (Boston Celtics) – voted a starter, but is injured
LeBron James (Cleveland Cavaliers) – starter
Dwight Howard (Orlando Magic) – starter
Ray Allen (Boston Celtics)
Chauncey Billups (Detroit Pistons)
Chris Bosh (Toronto Raptors)
Caron Butler (Washington Wizards) – injured
Richard Hamilton (Detroit Pistons)
Antawn Jamison (Washington Wizards)
Joe Johnson (Atlanta Hawks)
Paul Pierce (Boston Celtics)
Rasheed Wallace (Detroit Pistons)
Coach: Doc Rivers (Boston Celtics)

Western Conference All-Stars
Kobe Bryant (L.A. Lakers) – starter
Allen Iverson (Denver Nuggets) – starter
Carmelo Anthony (Denver Nuggets) – starter
Tim Duncan (San Antonio Spurs) – starter
Yao Ming (Houston Rockets) – starter
Carlos Boozer (Utah Jazz)
Steve Nash (Phoenix Suns)
Dirk Nowitzki (Dallas Mavericks)
Chris Paul (New Orleans Hornets)
Brandon Roy (Portland Trail Blazers)
Amare Stoudemire (Phoenix Suns)
David West (New Orleans Hornets)
Coach: Byron Scott (New Orleans Hornets)

For more information, visit www.nba.com/allstar2008.

Schedule of Events

Friday, February 15
NBA Cares Day of Service
T-Mobile Rookie Challenge and Youth Jam
NBA All-Star Celebrity Game

Saturday, February 16
Sprite Slam Dunk
PlayStation Skills Challenge
Foot Locker Three-Point Shootout
Haier Shooting Stars
D-League All-Star Game

Sunday, February 17
2008 NBA All-Star Game
East vs. West

Tennis team works hard for a promising season

Michelle Junot
Staff Writer

On Saturday, February 2, the Centenary Tennis Team began its season with a 7-0 loss. The team played well and put up a great effort, but in the end was defeated by its opponent, Texas-Pan American.

Oscar Medellin, a first year player from San Luis Potosi, Mexico, said that the team's practice schedule has recently been disrupted. Since returning from semester break, the team has had to practice at a nearby park while the Centenary tennis courts are repaved. The recent run of rainy weather has also limited their practice time on the court.

Medellin said that while the first couple of matches will be against tough competitors, they will provide good practice and experience for himself and his teammates. With their steady improvement, Medellin thinks they will have a very promising season.

Being a first year player from Mexico has been especially challenging for Medellin. While he likes his teammates and coach, he has had to adjust his game to the Louisiana altitude. San Luis Potosi has a much higher altitude than Shreveport, he explained, thus making his game different. Even the tennis balls he uses are different.

The team's next match will be on Sunday, February 17, in Dallas, Texas, against Southern Methodist University. For more information on the team's spring schedule and statistics, go to www.gocentenary.com.

The Conglomerate presents: The life of a Centenary athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

I personally find the game of softball to be similar to a rollercoaster ride—we have our up moments and our down moments, mixed in with a little exhilarating excitement, along with a little bit of nervousness as we venture to the top or play our first games of the season.

We loaded the bus for Texarkana last Friday at noon to play Oklahoma State in the opening games of the season. When we arrived in Texarkana, Arkansas, I think the realization of beginning the season had finally sunk in. Suited up in our new warm-up tops and uniforms, we walked off the bus ready to play.

As the double header against the Cowgirls from Stillwater went on, we continued to fight. Their bats came alive when our bats didn't. We seemed to struggle manufacturing runs, leaving sixteen batters on base over the course of the two games. Some of the exhilarating moments that brought life to the game as we escaped the lights of the scoreboard were home runs by freshman Bonnie Matak and senior Lyn Virdell.

After about six hours at the ballpark on Friday evening, we headed to dinner late that night at Applebee's. We were exhausted from the wind and cool breeze, but were much luckier to have a beautiful day without rain. At dinner, we celebrated the birthday of Coach Angus. Leaving the restaurant a little after midnight, we checked into our hotel and fell asleep immediately for a 7:00 a.m. wake up call.

Saturday morning awaited us as we grabbed a quick breakfast and loaded the bus for the double header against University of Alabama-Birmingham at 10 a.m. We arrived in uniform for warm-ups and pre-game. Game time came and we proved that we could rise up from the down moment of Friday's games and play hard. Even though we didn't come away with a win on Saturday against the Blazers, we had impressive pitching; performances from Stacy, Lauren, and Ryan kept us in the ball game, but once again our bats seemed to struggle at the plate as we couldn't find a way to score a run.

We played the first two games of the day, so we ended up having the rest of the day to relax and catch up on some much needed sleep. Our team left the ballpark, headed to Olive Garden for a late lunch, and then back to the hotel to chill for the rest of the evening. Some players were able to spend time with family members who drove miles to visit their daughters and other players were able to work on homework, watch television, and do each other's hair for Sunday's games (thanks Lauren).

Though the sleep was much needed, a win was needed more. We were able to sleep in on Sunday, grab a quick bite to eat, and arrive at the ballpark to face the University of Arkansas. It seemed to be a bit of a rivalry as we faced them my freshman year, taking a game from the SEC Lady Backs. But this year, things just didn't seem to go our way from the beginning. We were faced with adversity from the opening pitch of the double header, but as always, we fought and fought, coming up short.

Sophomore Allison Shepperd was able to provide a little spark with her first home run of the season, but it just wasn't enough as we continued to battle. Though our last weekend ended in six losses, we learned a lot about ourselves and our team in each one of the games.

Great things came about in each game, but more and more things need improvement. We encountered injuries that set us back a little, but as we prepare for this weekend at Baylor, we hope to work through the adversity and find a way to win some games.

As a student athlete at Centenary College, I find it interesting to pull up at the ballparks where big-time SEC and Big 12 schools sit and await. We walk up in maroon and white with a sense of pride, knowing we are just as competitive as they are. Yeah, we might not have a stacked team of twenty or so girls, but we have the same idea about winning and playing softball as any of them do. It just means much more when we can come away with a win.

Even though this past weekend didn't go as we planned, we, as members of the Centenary softball team, feel that a true athlete can only show her fight and will to win when she is put up against the best and still finds ways to have those exhilarating moments that are so much fun to talk about. We had a few moments, but we are looking for much more.

Coach Montgomery always says, "It's not about the product right now, it's about the process…" and with that said, we go into this weekend with more of an understanding of who we are as a team and not who we think we should be. Our team can only do what we do. Nothing else.

So, we play Syracuse at 10 a.m and Purdue at 12:30 p.m. today.

Wish us luck!

Go Ladies!

Welcome

DAVID ORR

New men's soccer head coach

Athletic Director Dr. Tom Tallach announced Tuesday, February 12th that Orr had been hired as the new head coach for men's soccer. Orr is a Centenary graduate, played for the Gents as a student, and served as assistant coach from 1999-2002.

Look for The Conglomerate interview next week!

Ladies Softball comes up short in opening tournament

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

Centenary Softball opened the 2008 season in Texarkana, Arkansas, with double headers against Oklahoma State, UAB, and Arkansas.

The Ladies fell to the Cowgirls in both games, 10-4 and 11-4. In the first game, Centenary got on board when freshman Caitlin Cavarra led off with a walk, moved to second on a pass ball, and then was brought home on a double by sophomore Brittany Williams. This run gave Centenary a one-run advantage. The lead didn't last long, as Oklahoma State responded with two runs in the bottom of the first.

The Ladies were able to push another run across in the fifth when sophomore Haley Bassett drew an RBI walk. In the sixth, senior Lyn Virdell homered and Williams pushed another run across with a ground out. However, this wasn't enough, as the Cowgirls responded in the fifth with five runs off the bat of three long balls. Sophomore pitcher Ryan Thacker picked up the loss on the mound for the Ladies.

Sophomore Stacy Whitmer started the second game of the double header allowing an unearned run, three hits, while striking out three before handing the ball over to freshman-redshirt Lauren Highsmith. The Ladies led 3-1 until the Cowgirls responded with another home run, tying the game 3-3. But in the bottom of the fifth, freshman Bonnie Matak answered back with a solo shot, putting the Ladies in the driver's seat. But yet again, Oklahoma State was powered by the big bats, providing themselves with another two-run blast in the sixth and six more runs in the seventh to put the game out of reach for the Ladies. Highsmith took the loss on the mound for the Ladies.

Day two in Texarkana came with an improved pitching performance, but the Ladies had problems finding ways to score runs. The University of Alabama at Birmingham handed the Ladies two more losses on the season. Centenary fell to UAB 2-0 and 3-0 on the day.

Whitmer was the game one starter, pitching six full innings and allowing only two runs on two UAB home runs. Allison Shepperd, Cavarra, and Williams all recorded hits against the Blazers, but couldn't find a way to push a run across.

In the second game of the day, Ryan Thacker went 4.2 innings and gave up just three hits and one run while striking out four. Her only run came in the second inning on a walked-in run. Highsmith came in as a relief, surrendering two runs, but only one earned, in 1.1 innings of relief. The Ladies were again limited in hits with only four, from Williams, Amy Wiedeman, Bassett, and Cavarra.

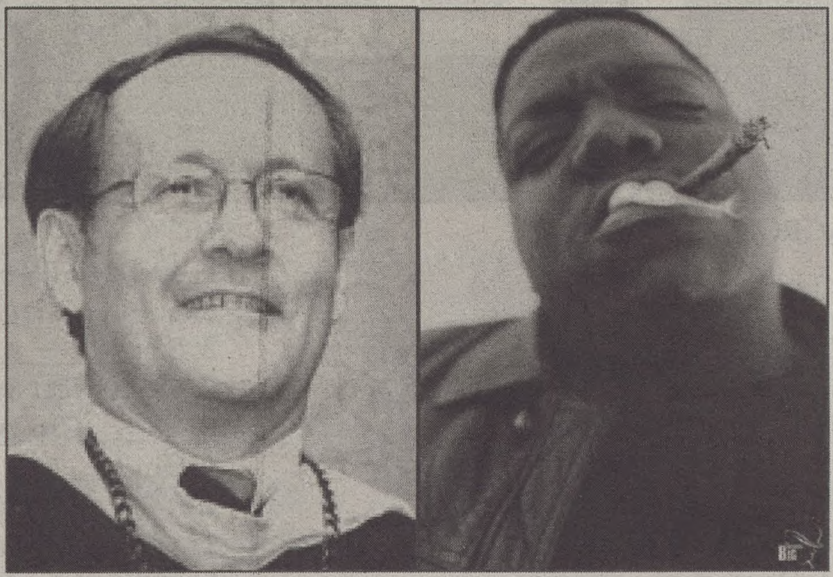
On the final day of the Century Bank Classic, the Ladies faced the University of Arkansas. The Lady Backs were able to hand the Ladies two more losses, winning 13-1 and 9-1. The Ladies put up five hits in the opening game. Two came off the bat of Cavarra, others from seniors Jennifer Martin and Virdell. But the biggest hit of the day for Centenary was a solo shot by Shepperd in the second inning for the Ladies' only run. Arkansas plated two runs in the third, fourth, and fifth innings to move out to a 7-1 advantage before sealing the game with six runs in the sixth.

In the last game of the tournament, Shepperd accounted for Centenary's only hit and run. Senior Lauren Flowers was issued a walk, moved to second base on a wild pitch, and then was plated home by a single up the middle off the bat of Shepperd.

Arkansas scored its nine runs on only six hits and put up five runs on three hits and an error in the first inning.

The Ladies return to action today, Friday, February 15, when they will take on Syracuse at 10 a.m. and Purdue at 12:30 p.m. in the Baylor Tournament.

Jarboe Jabber: Professors' theme songs discovered



Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

I came across a sacred document the other day as I was going through the confidential files in the basement of Hamilton (yeah... there's a basement). As I opened the document that read, "Stay Out, or Die an Excruciating Death," I knew that I had stumbled upon pure gold! I ripped open the top, slid out the file, and found, to my surprise, a list of teachers and the theme songs that would be played if they were about to be announced at a sporting event. I had no idea this was even in existence! I'm not sure how much I should reveal to you, but here are some I found quite amusing and entertaining.

Dr. Stafford – "Fly Like an Eagle" - Steve Miller Band - I thought about this one for a while, but I made the connection due to his odd fondness for juggling and disc golf. Fly like the wind, Dr. Stafford!

Dr. Hoaas – "Bills, Bills, Bills" - Destiny's Child - Of course! This one is quite easy! Dr. Hoaas is practically a replica of Kelly Rowland.

Rev. Betsy Eaves – "Jesus Take the Wheel" - Carrie Underwood - Could have seen that one coming.

Senora Demerath - "Hips Don't Lie" - Shakira - This one blindsided me! Shakira is clearly from the country of Colombia, and Senora Demerath is of Ecuadorian descent. You are so sneaky, Senora! Iche Wa Wa!

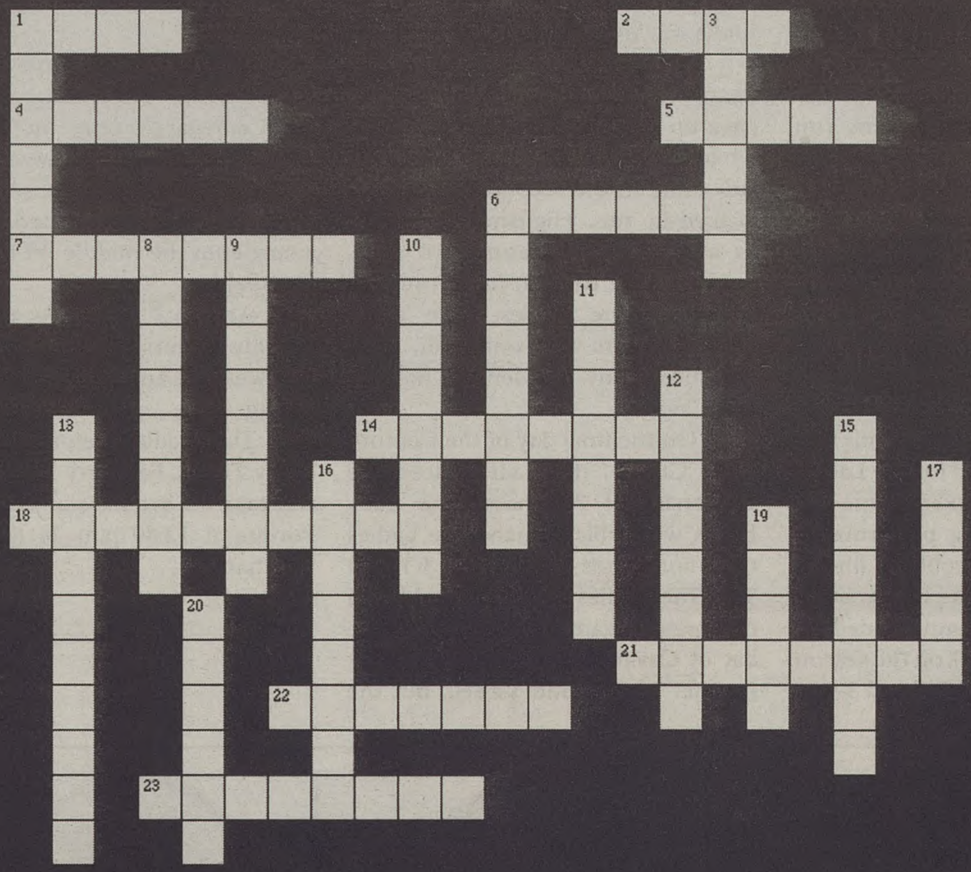
Dr. Hamming – "Captain Planet Theme Song" - Cpt. And Planeteers - Her love for the environment is clearly visible with her tactics of trying to get the school to raise money for solar power energy throughout the campus. She was quoted after I asked her about her reasoning behind the theme song as saying, "With our powers combined..."

Tim Crowley – "New York Minute" - The Eagles - Now I know he's from New York, but come on! The Eagles? They're about as intimidating as Ben Crismon in a tutu. Oh God.

Dr. Schwab – "Big Poppa" - Notorious B.I.G - It doesn't suprise me, Schwab. I've got to be honest; it's my favorite. Biggie totally encompasses your persona, and if you asked, I'm sure we'd all throw our hands in the air because tonight we'll be having your baby... baby.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE:

90'S ROCK REVISITED



ACROSS
1. ______ Asylum
2. Loser artist
4. My _______ Valentine
5. No ______
6. Stone ______ Pilots
7. _______ Twenty
14. ________ Blind (2 wds)
18. No Rain band (2 wds)
21. Dave _______ Band
22. Smells Like Teen Spirit band
23. Red _______ Pepper (2 wds)

DOWN
1. 40 Oz to Freedom and What I Got band
3. Black _______
6. Bittersweet Symphony band (2 wds)
8. ______ Crows
9. Gin ________
10. ________ Pumpkins
11. When I Come Around and Brain Stew band
12 . Jeremy and Even Flow band (2 wds)
13. _______ Soul
15. Foo ________
16. Hootie and the _______
17. Wonderwall and Champagne Supernova band
19. Sonic _______
20. ________ Dolls (2 wds)

Horoscopes

Aquarius (1/21-2/19) While you are forcing yourself to lower your expectations, everyone else is laughing at you for not realizing your own worth.

Pisces (2/20-3/20) Now that Valentine's Day is finally behind you, why don't you go tear some defenseless sap's heart out? Sound like fun? Of course.

Aries (3/21-4/20) Are you coming down with a cold? The flu? Syphilis?

Taurus (4/21-5/21) I think you should leak the rumor that is slightly hard to swallow. I don't know if I believe it, or how you would go about this leakage, but it's way too juicy to waste on silence.

Gemini (5/22-6/21) I know I did this to you a couple of weeks ago but.... you sure are cute for two ugly people.

Cancer (6/22-7/23) Crushes are like elephants, they are so cute! Also, they do you absolutely no good; mind you, at least you have a shot of the elephant returning your affection.

Leo (7/24-8/23) Some people call you cute, I call you a narcissist.

Virgo (8/24 –9/23) Hold out for a guy/girl who has a better grasp of physical hygiene, you will thank me in the long run.

Libra (9/24-10/22) Can't we just be friends? Oh that's right, I don't like you, nevermind.

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) Your boy/girlfriend tells absolutely awful jokes. Please tell them to shut up.

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) Some people call it a stomach virus, but I call it pregnancy, and so does my friend First Response.

Capricorn (12/22 –1/20) I wrote LOVE on my hand because I love you... and because I like to draw on myself.

Send us your secrets!

In honor of the newly released Post Secret book A Lifetime of Secrets the Conglomerate will be printing secrets of Centenary students.

In order to particpate take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box number 786 or slip it under the Conlgomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.

Some tips...
Be brief - the fewer the words the better
Be legible - use big, clear, and bold lettering
Be creative - let the postcard be your canvas

Visit www.postsecret.com for inspiration

Ups & Downs

⬆ CEA

For its constant efforts, especially their recent aganda to put solar panels on the roof of Magale.

⬇ RWB

For being lame as well as changing from an 18 and over club to a 21 and over this month.

⬆ Randles

For simply being down right nice people

⬇ The Cafe

For many reasons, namely changing the chicken nuggets, thus ruining a Thursday night tradition of yumminess.

⬆ Side-by-Side

For running donation boxes in Residence Halls for the food bank.

⬇ Shreveport

For the plethora of obnoxious water outages

CENTENARY AREA CONCERT WIRE

Feb. 15, Friday
Futuro Boots (Centenary alum Sammy Williams)
9 PM
Jackrabbit Lounge (adjacent to Lil Joe's)
Shreveport, LA
www.myspace.com/futuroboots

Feb. 22, Friday
Hackensaw Boys
Doors @ 8, Show @ 9 PM
Granada Theater
Dallas, TX
$12 advance
http://www.hackensawboys.com/
http://www.granadatheater.com/

Feb. 22, Friday
Reckless Kelly @ 10:30 PM
Billy Bob's Texas
Ft. Worth, TX
$10 GA, $14 reserved
http://wwww.billybobstexas.com
http://www.recklesskelly.com/

Feb. 23, Saturday
Two Tons of Steel @ 9 PM
Bootlegger's
Tyler, TX (~1.5 hours away)
$7
21 + Up
http://www.twotons.com/
http://bootleggers155.com/

Feb. 23, Saturday
Bruce Robison @ 10 PM
Poor David's Pub
Dallas, TX
$15
http://www.brucerobison.com
http://www.poordavidspub.com/

Feb. 23, Saturday
Robbie Fulks
Doors @ 5, Show @ 6 PM
Granada Theater
Dallas, TX
$15 advance
http://robbiefulks.com/
http://www.granadatheater.com/

Feb. 23, Saturday
Grand Funk Railroad (of "We're an American Band" fame) @ 10:30 PM
Billy Bob's Texas
Ft. Worth, TX
$12 GA, $24 reserved
http://wwww.billybobstexas.com
http://www.grandfunkrailroad.com/

Strange but true: radio station grants free divorce for Valentine's Day

Kari Patterson
Staff Writer

Congratulations on making it through yet another Valentine's Day! Whether you were one of those lucky people whose significant other spent the whole day showering them in the Holy Trinity of the day- flowers, chocolates, and promises they don't intend to keep- or part of the masses who spent the day cursing Hallmark and eating pints of Ben and Jerry's, surviving through February 14th without killing yourself or others is always a feat to be celebrated. In honor of the day after Valentine's Day, or "Singles Appreciation Day," whichever you prefer, here are a few Valentine's related news articles to try and help you feel less pathetic about your perpetual singleness. Or the three dozen roses and eight boxes of chocolates that have taken over your desk.

Make a note: if you're still looking for a Valentine next year, why not go with a sure-fire bet? That's right, I'm talking about Jesus. Unfortunately, you've missed your chance to really look nice for everyone's favorite Valentine. A cosmetics line in Singapore has announced that it will be pulling its "Looking Good for Jesus" line after complaints from customers. Christian consumers felt that items such as "Get Tight with Christ" body lotion were insulting and demeaning to their religion. A representative for the company apologized to anyone that was offended by the products. Really, though, who wouldn't want to make just that little bit of extra effort to look presentable for Christ? It's not like he's just using the flowers and candy to try and get into your pants or anything.

If you're still feeling a little blue and lonely around this time of the year, you could always take a leaf out of Charles Hatcher's book and have someone shoot you. Hatcher apparently threatened and harassed one of his employees until they agreed to shoot him. The reason? So he could get some sympathy, of course! And if hadn't gotten caught and arrested, undoubtedly the pain, chance of death, medical expenses, and crappy hospital food would definitely been worth the 99 cent "Get Well" cards and balloons his co-workers would have sent him. And who wouldn't brave death for the undivided attention of an attractive nurse of your gender of choice? Arranging to have yourself shot, stabbed or beaten, though, would certainly be a way to garner some attention from that cutie you've had your eye on in Chem lab. Not necessarily a good way, though, particularly if you end up in jail or dead. Oh, the things we'll do for love!

If, by chance, your significant other managed to completely forget about you this Valentine's Day, you could always try and enter the WKLC-FM contest for a free divorce. The Charleston, South Carolina radio station decided that instead of free tickets to a movie, concert, or restaurant, they would raffle off a free divorce for Valentine's Day. Just imagine the excitement some couple must have felt, waiting with bated breath, listening to the drawing on the radio and finally hearing that they were the lucky winners! Yes! I'll bet it was their best Valentine's Day gift ever! Well, it would decidedly be an improvement over last year's card fiasco- I mean, who addresses a card to "my darling mistress" anyways? While most of you are probably not married yet, just keep this contest in mind. It never hurts to keep your options open, and hopefully they'll make it an annual event, so in five years when you're looking for a way out of your dead-end marriage… hey, just because your S.O. sculpted you a giant teddy bear out of pure Godiva chocolate doesn't mean it's going to last. If anything, I'd say it means someone's either obsessed or feeling really guilty about something. But I'm no therapist.

Hopefully this has made you feel at least a little bit better about your Valentine's Day. Honestly, if I'd wanted to make you feel even worse, I could have mentioned the gorilla named Leah who has gotten a lot of publicity recently for being caught on tape having face-to-face sex- as opposed to facing the same direction. That's right, even gorillas are getting more action than you are, and on tape, too! But I was too nice to mention that…

Roommate conflict getting out of hand?

Before you go to war, go online and chat about it!

Roommate Resolution:
Give Peace a Chance!

Tuesday, Feb. 19th
7:00pm to 8:30pm

Get expert advice from your RAs, counselors, and fellow students on how to get along!

Just go to the Centenary Homepage next Tuesday and click on "Roommate Resolution" to enter the chat

For more information, contact
Kelly Gay
at kgay@centenary.edu or 841-7234

Sudoku

8	9				6			
2	5				1			
		1	8	9			4	
			4	1	9			6
4			3	2	8			
	1			6	3	7		
			5				6	3
			1				2	5

The CONGLOMERATE

February 22, 2008 Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press Volume 84, Issue 18

Opening of time capsule signals beginning of Centennial Celebrations

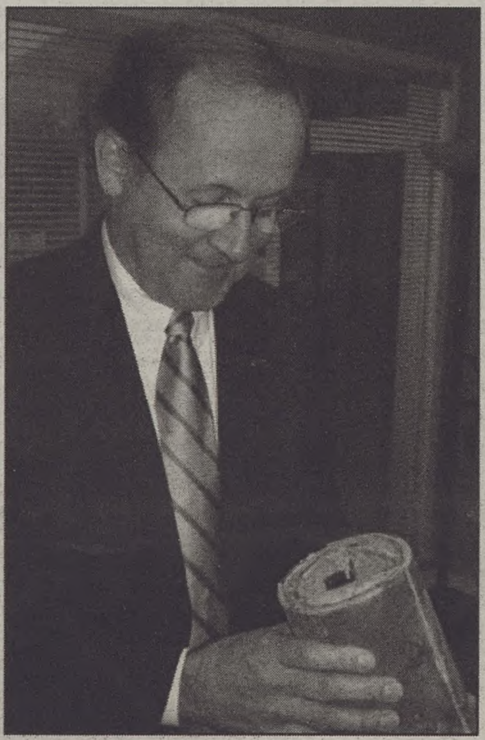
Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Centenary students, faculty, and staff who showed up to the Whited Room Thursday morning hoping to see the opening of the 1958 time capsule were instead party to photos of what President Schwab accurately termed "a gooey mess."

The time capsule had already been opened – and with good reason, as Schwab said, "we had to make sure that something was there." As it turned out, there was something there, but it wasn't exactly distinguishable; the capsule, buried in front of Brown Chapel, was "closed, but it wasn't really sealed." Those are the words of Charles Wilder, the SGA President who actually closed the capsule (as seen in a 1958 Conglomerate photo), who also added, "you can blame me for that."

Schwab and Wilder addressed a large contingent of Centenary and community members at the annual Morning Call. This year, however, Schwab said it was "a particularly exciting day," as this Call marked the official beginning of Homecoming and Centennial Celebrations and was immediately followed by a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony for the Riggs Memorial Plaza and Leadership Fountain. The plaza and fountain will be built in the quad.

Wilder compared Schwab to then College President Joe Mickle, saying both are "very easy to talk to, very approachable," and lauded the education he received at Centenary. He also talked about what life at Centenary was like in 1958, when the now co-ed James Hall was the new girls' dorm, and "boy, did they have strict restrictions on those girls."



The most entertaining part of Wilder's speech was his description of the closing of the time capsule 50 years ago: apparently, in honor of the day, students were encouraged to dress like they believed people would dress in 2008. When Schwab gestured to the crowd gathered there and asked if it looked similar, Wilder promptly responded with a resounding no.

The time capsule included the 1958 handbook, microfilm of Centenary sections of The Shreveport Times, a State Fair brochure, a city church directory, a city map, and Methodist literature. The list of materials will be on display in Magale Library.

The new time capsule, according to Amanda Fontenot, one of the students in charge of it, will not be sealed until the end of this year in order to more accurately represent current life at Centenary and to give ample time to the preservation process (in the hopes that 2058 will have some tangible materials to extract).

Schwab and Provost Darrel Colson also used the Morning Call to honor those at Centenary with 10 to 25 years of service, as well as announce the winners of the President's Excellence Award (Dian Tooke, who retires this year), the Charlton H. Lyons Summer Research Award (Dr. Harold Christensen, who will use it to write a history about the White Mountain Apaches), and the Outstanding Teacher Award (Dr. David Thomas).

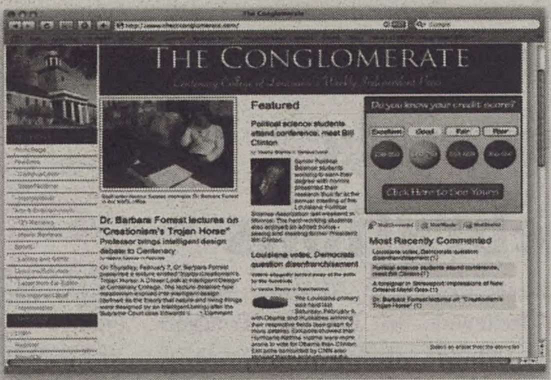
Morning Call was followed by the Founder's Day Convocation, where 2008 seniors processed to Brown Chapel in Centenary regalia and Dr. Lee Morgan gave the keynote address on the history of the College.

Top: President Schwab looks at the disintegrated contents of the 1958 time capsule prior to Morning Call. Photo courtesy of Saige Wilhite.

Bottom: Select members of the Centenary community symbolically turn over sand to break ground for the Riggs Memorial Plaza. The event had to be moved inside because of rain. Photo by Versha Sharma.

More photos of the capsule and Call can be found online at www.thecccconglomerate.com.

Letter from the editor: *The C-C-Conglomerate* is now online



Political science students attend conference, meet Bill Clinton

Dr. Barbara Forrest lectures on "Creationism's Trojan Horse"

Professor brings intelligent design debate to Centenary

Louisiana votes, Democrats question disenfranchisement

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

If you haven't been able to tell by my multitude of global emails and Facebook statuses (stati?), The Conglomerate is now online at www.thecccconglomerate.com. And I'm excited.

I don't know if I can properly relay just how thrilled I am (!). We officially launched the site last Friday, February 15, and since then I've been manically sending out press releases and emailing everyone I know. I think it's a significant step for this little ole newspaper and for our similarly little college – students from anywhere, as long as they have internet access, will be able to read our articles.

Let me back up a bit. Roxie Smith, editor-in-chief for three semesters from 2005-2006, was the one who established the link between The Congo and the College Publisher Network. College Publisher, newly minted my favorite people in the world, have helped put over 500 student-run university papers online, from weekly issues like ours to the daily publishing of University of Texas-Austin's The Daily Texan (which prints approximately 15,000 issues a day). We may never reach that level of readership because of our size and budget, but having a fully functioning website certainly goes a long way toward getting our name out there.

Shreveport Times reporters have already commented on our articles. The Shreveport Times and The Forum also ran our press release, which was relayed onto Google News for anyone logged in from the North Louisiana area. Even the lovely guy who delivers our pizza from PieWorks on Pierremont every Wednesday night just came in and said, "I saw y'all hit the big time with a website!"

Aside from anyone being able to leave comments on our articles (and boy, has that been used to good effect on last week's front page piece about Dr. Forrest and intelligent design), there are several other important functions of the website of which the Centenary community should take advantage.

At the request of a student commenter, there are forums up at the message board link in which anyone can participate. The commenter said it would be fun "to have a political board on campus," but in addition to that, the forums can serve as a place outside our dorm rooms and classrooms where everyone can discuss not just politics, but Centenary news - like this new Catahoula mascot costume or the Homecoming Committee spending a seemingly inordinate amount of money on a mechanical bull.

There are links to share articles via Facebook and Digg. There's a calendar that anyone can add to. There are links to see more information on each member of our editorial staff. Perhaps most important of all, the pictures accompanying our articles are also posted online – in color!

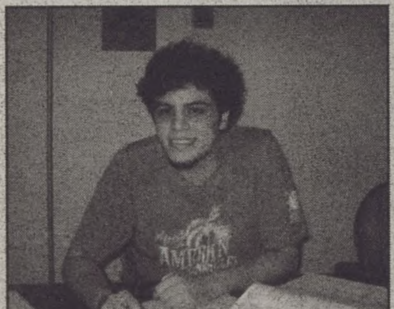
As you can certainly tell by now, I have high hopes for this website, and I hope all students, faculty, and staff will use it and peruse it. As always, The Conglomerate is open to all suggestions and criticism – and if you want to join us, we meet every Sunday at 9 p.m. in the office on the third floor of the SUB. Happy Homecoming! (Shameless plug: www.thecccconglomerate.com. Which reminds me- it's not that we don't think stuttering is cool, but that does stand for the Centenary College Conglomerate.)

Question of the Week

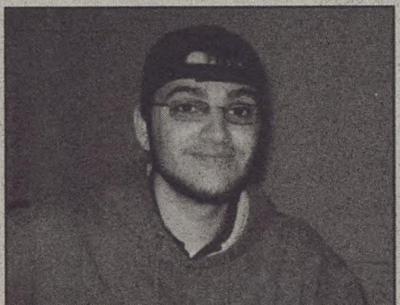
WHAT WOULD YOU PUT IN THE TIME CAPSULE?

"E.T. (anything could happen in the future)."
-Tene Paxton,
Sophomore

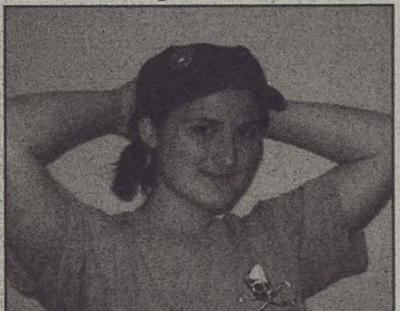
"Gent - so it will never be forgotten."
-Ashley Johnston,
Junior



"Mary Ham, because she'll fit."
-Jude Simon,
Sophomore



"Catahoula puppy."
-Kyle McGimsey,
Junior



"Leave Britney alone!"
-Lauren-Christine
Broussard,
Senior

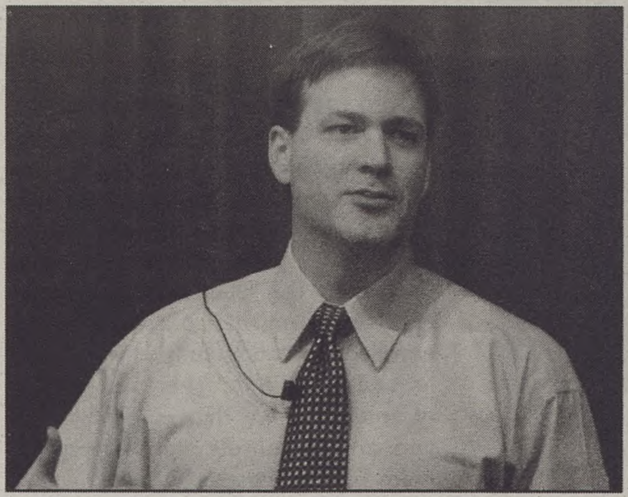
"My DNA, so they can clone me."
-Ben Scalisi,
Sophomore

FEATURES

Annual Philosophy Forum focuses on "value and virtue in a Godless universe"

Note from Dr. Ciocchetti:

This year, Centenary College's Forum discusses value and virtue in a Godless universe. We've invited philosopher and author Dr. Erik Wielenburg (DePauw University) to speak on February 25th at 7pm in Kilpatrick Auditorium on Centenary's campus. Dr. Wielenburg, however, will not have the last word. Students and citizens respond on March 3rd at the same time and place. Both events are free and open the public. For more information, visit our website at http://www.centenary.edu/forum/ or call Dr. Chris Ciocchetti at 318-869-5246. Join us to discuss the possibility (or impossibility) of ethics, morality and a meaningful life in a Godless universe.



Dr. Erik Wielenburg
Associate Professor of Philosophy
DePauw University

In the book of Job, the title character complains bitterly about the world: "Why do the wicked live, reach old age, and grow mighty in power?" (Job 21:7); "[f]rom out of the city the dying groan ... yet God pays no attention to their prayer" (Job 24:12). The world has changed little since Job's time. Injustice and evil abound. Why does God permit this?

The book of Job reminds us that this question has been with us for some time. A popular answer, likely as old as the question itself, is that God permits the horrors of this world because they are necessary to achieve some great good(s). Some have made bold conjectures about the nature of these great goods, suggesting, for instance, that free will is a great good, but one inextricably linked with evil. More cautious thinkers have noted that even if we cannot identify the great goods in question, they may nevertheless be real, beyond our ken, yet grasped by God.

This kind of answer to Job's challenge makes sense only if God cannot secure these great goods without permitting evil as well. It is not often noticed, however, that God is limited in this way only if God is not the author of ethical truth. To see this, suppose that which things are good and evil were entirely up to God. A God with such power would never be forced to permit evil in order to achieve great goods. Rather than making, say, free will a great good, He could decree that the greatest good of all is a lifeless rock floating in empty space. This would be a wise choice, for such a good could be accomplished with no suffering or injustice as by-products. God's goodness can be reconciled with the evils of this world only if God does not have unlimited power over ethical truth. A God who could re-write morality as He saw fit would be without excuse.

But how can the power of an omnipotent God be limited? Thomas Aquinas and C.S. Lewis have noted that there are some truths that even an omnipotent being cannot alter. Some truths must be true. It is impossible for them to be false. Not even Omnipotence can touch them. If God cannot bend ethical truth to His will, this suggests that some ethical truths simply cannot be false. If it really is true that free will is a great good, or that torturing the innocent just for fun is wrong, then such truths are not derived from God's will.

But what, then, does make them true? It is often said that ethical truths have to come from somewhere -- they cannot just exist. This statement loses its plausibility when we remember that it can be asserted of anything. As my two-year-old son knows, it is always possible to ask "why?" one more time. Religious believers should recall their own answer to the question of where God came from: He didn't come from anywhere; He just is. Part of the majesty and mystery of morality is that its fundamental truths -- its axioms -- just are.

According to the Psalmist, "[t]he fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalms 14:1). Even more foolish, perhaps, are those like me who say it out loud. We atheists are often condemned for our foolishness on the grounds that atheism eliminates the only possible foundation of ethical truth. But this idea rests on a mistaken view of God's relationship to morality, for if there are ethical truths at all, at least some of them do not require God and hence retain their truth in a godless universe. They retain as well their rightful claim to our devotion, for, God or no, the best reason to struggle for those things that are right and good is precisely that they are right and good.

Pictured: Dr. Wielenburg.

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Turner Art Center offers class on graphic novels

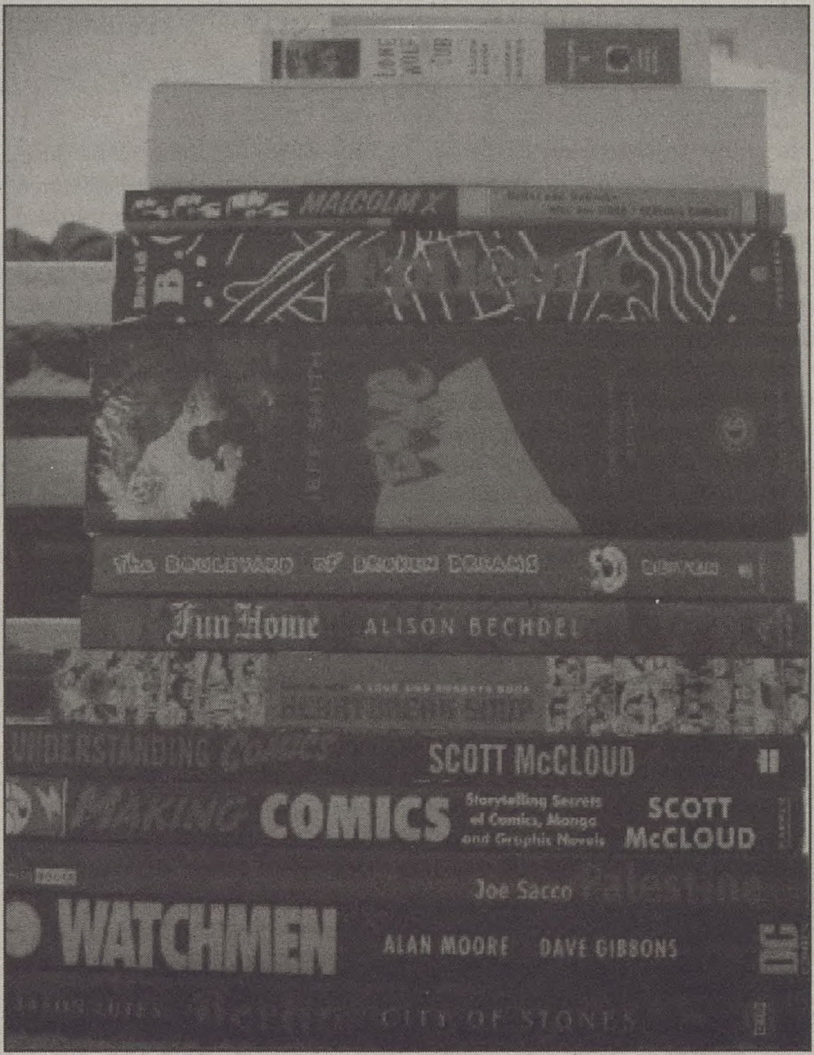
Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

Centenary College is offering a new class focusing on Comics and the Graphic Novel, taught by Dr. Greg VanHoosier-Carey. The class offers many students with an interest in a range of subjects such as animation, film, or just reading comics and graphic novels the opportunity to do so.

Over the last few years, a number of students have expressed their interest in a class focusing on comics and graphic novels. Many, including Dr. VanHoosier-Carey, have enjoyed comics and he, especially, finds them to be an interesting communication form because of "the interactive participation that it requires of the reader."

Dr. VanHoosier-Carey said, "The fact that this highly complex medium is not taken seriously by many people, particularly those in academia, also makes it interesting to me." By addressing a topic that so many professors ignore, GVC is somewhat of a rebel in his own field.

He is, by no means, a fanatical comics reader, but knows the history well enough and has read a number of graphic novels. However, he says that, "many of the students in the class have read more widely than I have." That, in itself, makes for great discussions in class, with students bringing up a wide range of ideas that he has never thought of before.



Some of the 20+ graphic novels students have to read for this class (no doubt they're a bit more enjoyable than other assignments).
Photo by Mindy McKoin.

The course focuses mainly on studying the formal properties of comics and how they work as a communication form. Also, the students examine the particular effect that the text had on them as a reader to help them develop both analytical and creative skills. The students will write analytical papers and create their own comics.

"I believe that analysis and creation build on each other. That is something that the communication program stresses in all of its studio classes," said GVC. So, by creating and analyzing their own and others' work, students can build their knowledge about comics in general and the entire communication form itself.

A couple of the works that the class will be focusing on include Chris Ware's "Jimmy Corrigan: The Smartest Kid on Earth" and Kim Deitch's "The Boulevard of Broken Dreams." These texts, according to GVC, use the comic form in particularly interesting ways to engage the reader in their narratives.

With the feedback the course is getting from the students that are enrolled in it, hopefully it will stick around for a while. There are plenty of students here that enjoy comics and graphic novels and, hopefully, many more to come.

Student Life Administrative Assistant Jennifer DeBouse leaves Centenary

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate love, but it served as a bittersweet moment for Mrs. Jennifer DeBouse. After three years of serving as Administrative Assistant of Student Life, Mrs. DeBouse, affectionately called Mrs. Jennifer by those around her, is relocating to Atlanta, Georgia with her family. She sat down with me on her last day at Centenary College and discussed the good old days.

Conglomerate: Are you looking forward to your new life in Atlanta?

Mrs. Jennifer: I am. I know that God has something in store for me there, but it is bittersweet leaving.

Congo: I understand, so what do you think you'll miss the most about Centenary?

Mrs. Jennifer: (sighs, and wipes eyes) It's so much, but I'll miss the students most, in particular my student workers. I work one-on-one with them all the time, so yeah, I'll miss them the most.

Congo: What's your favorite memory about Centenary?

Mrs. Jennifer: I don't exactly remember the convocation, but they recognized the women who'd had a big impact on the college. It was empowering to see, and I liked the fact that they celebrated them.

Congo: What's your least favorite memory about Centenary?

Mrs. Jennifer: That would have to be leaving.

Congo: What legacy would you like to leave at Centenary?

Mrs. Jennifer: It's nice to know that everyone who needed me got help in some way.

Congo: Do you have some parting words for the students?

Mrs. Jennifer: Yes. No matter what, anything is possible. Persist and convince yourself that you can. Don't look at how hard or how long it takes. Just look at the end. And if you believe it, you can achieve it.

Congo: Do you have any advice for your successor?

Mrs. Jennifer: Be nosy or in other words don't be afraid to look for answers. Be ready to have a stream of students coming to get candy. Take care of the Student Life Staff and student workers.

Mrs. Jennifer will be missed by all who had the pleasure of meeting her.

Centenary Residence Life racks up regional awards

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

There are fond (and some not so fond) memories of the SWACURH conference held here in November. Many students here at Centenary can remember the screaming, chanting, and very loud students from the 23 schools represented. Well, another conference was held at The University of Oklahoma, but unlike the SWACURH conference at Centenary, this conference was a very low key affair that lacked the crazy chants and wild outfits.

Because of the lack of pure craziness, the conference was aptly titled No Frills. This conference has the distinct purpose of being a pure business conference. Everything that happens there is designed for getting the business of the region completed.

What kind of business occurs at No Frills? A large portion of the business revolves around bids, which are large proposals for the recognition of programs, resident assistants, advisors, students, faculty, etc. Each of these bids is designed to sell the topic it is about. A bid is usually over 30 pages long, with some of them being far longer.

The rest of the business revolves around setting up for other conferences, like SWACURH, NACURH, etc. Overall, the conference is no less busy or enthusiastic as SWACURH, though it is far more formal and serious.

The delegates from Centenary College included Regional Board of Directors member and National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) President Josh Coco, National Communications Chair Madeline Burgoyne, Residence Hall Association (RHA) President Maggie Mahoney, NRHH Representative Cara Miccoli, and Assistant Director of Residence Life Kristy Jackson as the group's advisor.

Naturally, Centenary's NRHH group presented many bids.

"We submitted seven bids, which was more than any other school," said Josh Coco. Among the bids submitted were NRHH Chapter of the Year, School of the Year, Kevin Wagner for Advisor of the Year, Stacey Stokes for Student of the Year, Taylor Gruner for First Year Student of the Year, Maggie Mahoney for RHA President of the Year, and Cody Andrews for NRHH Member of the Year.

Centenary came in second for School of the Year, but ended up winning NRHH Member of the Year and President of the Year. Centenary was also recognized as the NRHH Chapter of the Year for the second year in a row. As of now, our NRHH chapter plans to send bids for School, NRHH Chapter, Student, and President to the national level, which will be announced at the NACURH Conference. This is the most bids that Centenary has ever sent to the national level in one year.

Now plans are underway to send delegates to the NACURH conference that will be held this summer. The conference will be held at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma and everything about it dwarfs the smaller regional conferences, like SWACURH and No Frills. In this conference, members from schools all over the nation attend – this time with the chants and the outfits. And now, the Centenary NRHH chapter hopes to leave NACURH as the School and NRHH Chapter of the Years, while also having the Student and NRHH Member of the Year. Overall, the future is looking bright for the Centenary National Residence Hall Honorary Chapter.

Centenary College Career Fair

Connecting you to your future

March 6th, 2008 9AM-12PM
Whited Room

Over 20 Employers and Graduate
Schools will be in attendance

RSVP and submit Resumes through CAREERlink

Centenary Career Services_2911 Centenary Blvd, Shreveport, LA 71104_318.869.5208
www.centenary.edu/career

Women's Endowment Quorum funds projects on campus

Amanda Russell
Staff Writer

Every spring, members of the Centenary community have the opportunity to request money from the Women's Endowment Quorum to fund projects on campus. The WEQ grants are a great way for student organizations and administrative offices to fund projects and make improvements on campus that might not otherwise be possible due to lack of funds.

According to Sarie Joubert, the Director of Major Gifts at Centenary, the Women's Endowment Quorum was formed over twenty years ago to support areas of the college that are not usually covered by the operating budget. This could range from helping students pay for trips to funding student organizations or purchasing furniture (such as the fitness center's movable flooring) for buildings on campus.

"The women of the WEQ are loving community supporters," said Joubert. There are currently eighty WEQ members. Some of the women are alumni of the college and others are simply community members. "What these women have in common is the desire to see Centenary prosper."

The WEQ raises money through its membership donations. Each member pays a donation of $1,000. The women also meet twice a year at a luncheon. One luncheon is an educational communication luncheon. At the other, the ladies vote on the proposals that are submitted to the WEQ. On Tuesday, February 12, the women met in the Whited Room. Members of the Maroon Jackets served as valets and welcome ambassadors for the WEQ.

Joubert announced that proposals for WEQ funds will be sent to the campus in early March via email. Be on the lookout and start thinking about what your organization or office might request from this group.

Student Government Association

Notes from the February 19, 2008 meeting in the Centenary Room of the caf.

Resolutions Voted on:

o Resolution 0708_32 to allocate $1,300.00 to the AED hosted Annual Crawfish Boil on Saturday, April 12.
Amount Awarded: $1000.00

o Resolution 0708_33 to allocate $350.00 to The Wilderness Club to fund activities for the Wilderness Club.
Amount Awarded: $350.00

Resolutions tabled for next week:
o Resolution 0708_34 to allocate $6,000.00 in order to pay the bill for the USA Today Readership Program.

Next Meeting: February 26, 2008. 8pm, Centenary Room of the caf.

Circuit court overturns Texas law banning sex toys

Southern Elle
Staff Writer

If you thought life in Texas was a little too, er, vanilla…it looks like you are in luck. Just this week the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a Texas law banning the selling, advertising, promoting, giving, or lending of "obscene devices," also known as sex toys. The Court ruled the law unconstitutional due to the right of privacy guaranteed through the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment. The 5th Circuit Court's decisions apply to Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, ironically three of the most conservative states in the United States, two of which (Mississippi and Texas) specifically ban the sales of toys shaped like male and female genitalia. Alabama and Virginia also ban the sales of sex toys, but since these states are in different Circuits, the 5th Circuit Court decision doesn't apply in those states. Similar laws in Louisiana, Kansas, Colorado, and Georgia have already been thrown out by courts.

The state of Texas tried to argue that there are "legitimate morality-based reasons" for this law, including "discouraging prurient interests in autonomous sex and the pursuit of sexual gratification unrelated to procreation." In other words, the state of Texas does not want you to masturbate. The state of Texas does not want you to have sex that doesn't lead to babies. So if you take birth control or other contraception, choose to have oral sex, or are unable to procreate, apparently the state of Texas does not want you having sex. For once, I'm glad I live in Louisiana. Even our "wonderful" Senator David Vitter knows that all sex should not lead to children – or at least, he's probably excited those prostitutes never popped out a kid who could be linked to him through DNA.

The Texas law itself is a hoot and a half. Do people truly lend sex toys to each other? Please, please, let me warn you how insanely unsanitary and gross that is. Before even passing a toy between monogamous partners you should wash it! As for "promoting" sex toys, well, the law defined anyone who owned six or more to be "promoting" obscene devices, a misdemeanor. I don't know how the cops would know which house door to knock on, much less which drawer to look in. How about the look a judge would give you if you were actually arrested for owning seven sex toys? If you think that is insane, the state of Texas was spending hard-earned tax dollars to send undercover cops into sex toy shops to try to buy sex toys. Now, I know Texas has more money that Louisiana; anyone who has driven across the state line can attest to the fact that their roads are ten times better than ours. But aren't there better ways to spend tax dollars? I could think of, oh, education, health care, border patrol, cleaning up pollution, paying teachers more, and about five million other ideas. I'm sure all the Texas college students would love a scholarship or two!

If you didn't realize there was a ban on sex toys in Texas, you might not be the only one. The law left provisions for toys "used for educational purposes" and didn't include toys not shaped like human genitalia, such as any toy with an animal, floral, or similar non-human design. The most famous of these is probably the Rabbit, featured on HBO's "Sex and the City," though knock-offs with butterflies, flowers, cougars, dolphins, and anything else you can imagine exist on the market. Salespeople at sex toy shops in Texas were allowed to sell these toys in the name of "educational purposes" – whatever the hell that means. Other than a condom demonstration (which Texan abstinence-only programs surely ban from schools!), what exactly can a vibrator educate you about? Probably nothing the state of Texas really wants you to know! But at least everyone in Texas can rest assured knowing sex, even freaky sex, is safe behind the bedroom door, not in the courtroom, the legislature, or the police station, where it doesn't belong.

Blu-ray wins the DVD format war

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

In case my readership hasn't been following the war between HD DVD and Blu-ray, it's been intense. Since the release of the former, companies have been split between the two formats. Microsoft lined up behind HD DVD with Toshiba, and Sony stood behind Blu-ray. Movie studios were equally split.

The past few months, however, have seen a decline in movie studios releasing titles in the HD DVD format. Many studios started to defect in recent months, with a big hit in January when the major studio Time Warner moved exclusively to Blu-ray. Many people also started to question the HD DVD format when Microsoft, in January, said it could consider moving to Blu-ray if there were consumer demand. February brings more big news: HD DVD is dead.

Toshiba has been the only producer of HD DVD players, and while they haven't yet made an official announcement, a company source told Reuters on February 16 that they would be backing out of the format war. Even though there is still some meager support behind HD DVD, Toshiba's decision to pull the plug is a death sentence for the format.

The source who spoke to Reuters, who didn't want to be identified, was quoted as saying, "We have entered the final stage of planning to make our exit from the next generation DVD business."

This is bad news for Toshiba, which stands to take a loss numbering in the hundreds of millions of dollars, said Japanese television network NHK. It sounds like good news for consumers, however—those who haven't bought HD DVD players yet. Undecided buyers can now make the jump into Blu-ray with little trepidation.

Meet Mette Prang, a gumbo- and RWB-lovin' Dane

Jessica Brown
Staff Writer

Mette Prang came to study at Centenary this semester from Aarhus University in Aarhus, Denmark. Born to Danish parents, Mette has traveled throughout Europe, but this is her first experience in the United States. Mette is studying English and Communications. She is taking American Politics, American History from 1877-Present, Advanced Rhetoric, Conversation, and Grammar, Advertising and PR, and Principles of Management. She plans on one day going into Human Resources.

Congo: Mette, how old are you?

Mette: Luckily, I am 24 years old so that I may experience everything in Shreveport.

Congo: What have you experienced already?

Mette: I love the RWB and other clubs in Shreveport. I am not a gambler at all, but I love to dance and hang out with friends, so the dance clubs in town are a lot of fun for me to go to.

Congo: What are some of your hobbies?

Mette: I love to dance and am taking Advanced Jazz and Beginner's Ballet here at Centenary. I also play soccer back in Denmark. Besides that, I just enjoy music and hanging out with friends. The other girls from Denmark and I like to go out every weekend and dance. The people are so friendly and inviting here that it is always fun to go out.

Congo: What are some major differences between the United States and Denmark that you have noticed so far?

Mette: The people here are so friendly and outgoing. In Denmark, people do not smile at you on the streets and strike up casual conversation with you. Instead they size you up and take longer to get to know you. One of my best friends back at home and I hated each other when we first met, but after about two weeks we got to know each other better and are excellent friends now. I think American people would have a hard time with this in Denmark, but after they get over the initial meeting of people, Americans fit in very well in Denmark.

Congo: So what do you think about the food here?

Mette: I enjoy not having to cook every night like I do in Denmark, but I am so sick of fried food. I like the salad bar at the café, but it seems like they fry almost everything else!

Congo: What is your favorite American dish?

Mette: I love gumbo. I tried it when I went to New Orleans for Mardi Gras break.

Congo: Tell me about your experience in New Orleans.

Mette: I loved it. We went to the French Quarter and Bourbon Street. The tradition of beads is so weird to me. On Bourbon Street we saw so many half naked women with painted bodies, men in leather and pink thongs, and people dressed up like vampires. It was interesting to make eye contact with people to get beads. A lot of people wanted you to flash them for beads on Bourbon Street, but some people didn't. I couldn't believe that there was a hurricane there just two years ago. Everything seemed to be rebuilt, but we did not visit any poor neighborhoods where I suppose much of the damage still remains.

Congo: Where else in the United States do you plan to visit?

Mette: I am going to Dallas in March with another friend from Denmark who is coming to visit me. After the semester is over, I plan on going to San Francisco.

Congo: What do you plan to do when you are done with school?

Mette: In Denmark people always go on to get their Master's. Rarely does someone stop after receiving their Bachelor's degree. I am mastering in Communications and would love to work for a company some day. I would like to help with the hiring and communication between departments within the company.

Congo: Valentine's Day was celebrated here recently. What do you think about it?

Mette: Well, in Denmark they are trying to make it a bigger deal, but I think love is better when it is spontaneous. It shouldn't be on a certain day. I think there is too much pressure to be romantic on Valentine's Day and that people should be romantic whenever they feel like it, not when the calendar says so.

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Centenary student to attend Republican National Convention

Delegates decided at Louisiana State Convention; majority pledge support to McCain

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Centenary sophomore Matthew Wallace is involved enough in campus and state activities. He's a SGA Senator, a TKE fraternity member, and worked hard on the Jindal campaign last year. Now, however, Wallace has been selected for perhaps the most exciting event yet – he is one of a group of 47 delegates who will represent Louisiana at the Republican National Convention in September.

The Convention will take place from September 1-4 in St. Paul/Minneapolis, Minnesota. Wallace was selected as a delegate last Saturday, February 16, at the State Republican Convention in Baton Rouge.

The main purpose of the state convention was to select the presidential candidate who would get the majority of Louisiana delegates. In the primary, held here on February 9, Mike Huckabee received 43% of the vote while John McCain received 42% of the vote. Because neither received over 50%, state party rules dictate that the convention selects the national delegates, who then select who they will vote for.

Out of the 105 state delegates (15 people are chosen from each of the seven congressional districts), 20 were selected to go to the national convention, 20 were chosen as alternates, and there are three "automatics." Wallace will be attending as an alternate, but if he were chosen, he says, he "would not have signed an affidavit to vote for John McCain."

Though The Shreveport Times, New Orleans Times-Picayune, and Baton Rouge Advocate all report differing numbers from 33 to 39, the McCain campaign says 39 delegates have signed affidavits pledging their support to McCain.

"There are two philosophies floating around," said Wallace. "The first is that it's pretty obvious [McCain will] be receiving the nomination, and we as a party need to unite. But the second one, the one I tend to agree with more, is that as elected delegates, it's our job to represent the people. So, were he still in the running, I would have voted for Huckabee." Wallace bases his hypothetical on concrete information about the 4th congressional district – though there was only a one percent disparity between Huckabee and McCain statewide, in the district that includes Shreveport (and the district that elected Wallace as a state delegate), there is approximately a 20% disparity between the two nominees.

As for the experience of the convention itself, Wallace said it was "interesting – to say the least. It was very eye-opening and I was able to make connections with fellow politicos around the state." Wallace also spent most of Saturday sitting next to former Louisiana Governor Buddy Roemer (1988-1992), who he described as "quite a hoot." The Centenary student is unique in that not many other college students or young people attended the state convention; in fact, just from the 4th congressional district, Wallace was one of two college students to be selected (the other is a freshman from LSUS).

As McCain looks like the presumptive Republican nominee, Wallace will likely see and possibly meet him at the convention. As for the closest runner-up, they've already met – back in 2004, at a youth conference, Wallace met Huckabee. "He's very personable, a likable guy, and an honorary TKE from one of the Arkansas chapters," he said, describing Huckabee's public appeal. Still, he will stand behind his party's choice: "John McCain is a politician, and he will play the fence when he can. I think it's very interesting that five months ago, everyone thought he was done."

His statement of support for his party is what he cites as the Republicans' most important advantage. "That is the strength of the Republican party in America – they will unify behind a Republican, because to them, the worst Republican is better than the best Democrat."

Still, unified party or not, the atmosphere at the Louisiana state convention was not one of complacency. "Everyone's pulling for Hillary to stay in the race as long as she can, because the more money they spend, that helps us in the end," said Wallace.

As for Obama, even Republicans are taking notice of his now-famous ability to inspire. Wallace described the potency of the Illinois Senator's speaking skills when he said, "He can get up and give a 20-minute speech about absolutely nothing, and you can get up and leave thinking, 'Woo! Obama '08!' – and that is potentially very damaging."

The direction that the Republican campaign might take once the Democratic candidate is selected is evident in speeches that took place during the state convention. Bob Kostelka, a member of the Louisiana State Senate, addressed the convention on Saturday. "Can you believe the United States is on the verge of electing Barack Hussein Obama or the wife of Monica's ex-boyfriend?" he asked, according to the Baton Rouge Advocate. "Really, it's enough to make you cry."

Though the focus of the state convention was on the upcoming national election in November, state politics and the early actions of the Jindal administration were also addressed. Wallace stopped by the State Capitol in Baton Rouge while there to watch some of the ongoing special legislative session on ethics. "I think we'll come out with a lot better ethics and a better national perception," he said. "This also sets us up for the next special session on business and economic development, and lets us hit the ground running come May for the first full session."

There's a convincing reason why Wallace is so optimistic that Jindal and company will accomplish much in just their first few months in office. "There's no secret – Bobby wants to be President one day," he said. "He has to have an active record to run on." Those high aspirations seem to neatly coincide with conservative pundit Rush Limbaugh's hopes that McCain will select Jindal as his Vice President, but such a step wouldn't even allow the new Governor to finish his first year in office. Maybe "if it were three years into his administration," said Wallace. Indeed, according to his campaign platform, Jindal has much to accomplish, including ethics, economic development, rebuilding New Orleans and the coast, and tax credits.

"It's a very exciting time for politics in Louisiana," said Wallace.

Photo: Delegates vote for their presidentital preference, by Travis Spradling for the Baton Rouge Advocate.

Centenary welcomes new Spanish professor, Tomas Weidmer-Ocampo

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Congo: Can you briefly introduce yourself to our readers?

Weidmer-Ocampo: My name is Tomas Weidmer-Ocampo. I just recently moved down here from Minnesota where I taught at the University of Minnesota at Duluth.

Congo: Where else have you taught besides Centenary and Minnesota?

Weidmer-Ocampo: My first teaching position, actually, was at Tulane University for seven years. Then I moved up to Minnesota where I taught for 12 years.

Congo: What classes do you currently teach?

Weidmer-Ocampo: I teach two sections of Intermediate Spanish and two sections of Contemporary Mexican Film.

Congo: What is your impression of Centenary so far?

Weidmer-Ocampo: I like it quite a bit. I like the nice, cozy campus. I have been pretty happy with students that I have had in class. They have been very pleasant and eager. So far, I like it here a lot.

Congo: What do you think your biggest challenge will be this semester?

Weidmer-Ocampo: Given that I am only going to be here for a semester, I think getting used to the way things are here on campus and jumping into the second semester of Intermediate Spanish without knowing exactly what has been done before or how far the students have progressed.

Congo: What are your hobbies outside of the classroom?

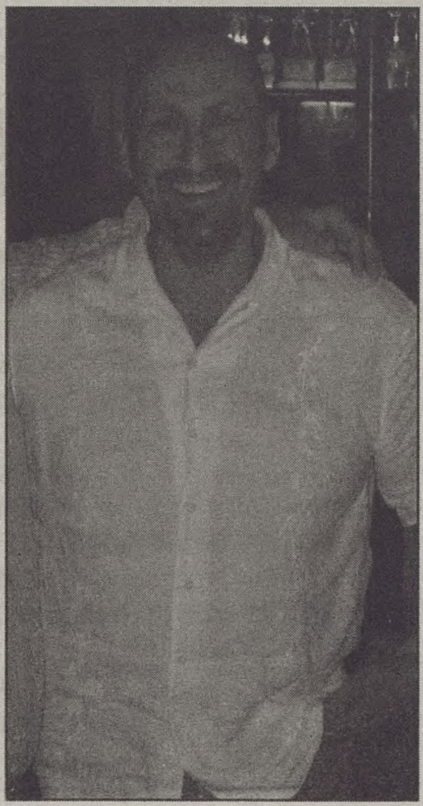
Weidmer-Ocampo: Before I moved down here, I did a lot climbing. But there is not a lot of that going on down here in the South. I am really interested in mountain climbing and ice climbing and rock climbing. I like to be outside. I love doing activities that are outdoors.

Congo: What are your pet peeves in class?

Weidmer-Ocampo: Giving interviews (laughs). I'm kidding. Probably the same as most teachers. When students go into a classroom and are not there because they want to learn the material or not putting a certain amount of energy and effort into the class. You expect a certain amount of reciprocity from the students but when you have somebody who is coming to class, especially language classes, because it is a requirement or something that they're not truly interested in. When I learn that they only think that it might look good on a resume, it kind of bothers me. I want students in my classes to want to be in class and be interested in learning the material.

Congo: Any advice for students either in your classes or just in general?

Weidmer-Ocampo: Yeah, write the Provost and tell him that I would like to stay on staff permanently. Other than that, without running the risk of sounding overly preachy, taking a course of study that will not only get them a good job, but also give the student something that they enjoy doing everyday. Something that will keep them happy. However, as much as education costs, many students only look at it from a financial perspective. Yet, I wouldn't let it overshadow what you really like doing because you are probably going to be doing this for a very long time.



Supreme Court rejects appeals from Katrina victims, refuses to extend wiretapping investigation

Amanda Russell
Staff Writer

The Supreme Court, in a series of decisions announced Tuesday, delivered major blows to victims of Hurricane Katrina as well as opponents of the wiretapping cases.

Hurricane Katrina victims across South Louisiana have been refused the right to collect claims on damages to homes and businesses caused by wind or flooding during Hurricane Katrina. A group of individuals and businesses, including Xavier University, asked the Supreme Court to intervene after the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled these insurance policies did not cover damage from floods, even if the floods resulted from man-made failures such as the collapsed levees in New Orleans. These plaintiffs wanted to see their lawsuits against the insurers proceed; however, the 5th Circuit refused, and the Supreme Court upheld the ruling.

Another case dealing with the Katrina insurance fraud is working its way through the state appeals process. A state appeals court in Louisiana has decided that the language excluding water damage from some insurance polices is "ambiguous." The Louisiana State Supreme Court will hear arguments in that case on February 26.

In addition to the Katrina insurance controversy, the justices refused to take a case involving a challenge to the program of electronic surveillance without warrants instituted by the National Security Agency to combat terrorism. The program was originally developed after the 9-11 attacks to monitor exchanges between people in the United States allegedly linked to Al Qaeda. The New York Times blew the cover of the program in an exposé published in December 2005.

The ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) initiated suit on behalf of a group of lawyers, writers, and organizers who found the surveillance program to violate federal law because of its "chilling" effect on communications with potential overseas clients. The program was discontinued in 2007, but resumed several months later thanks to congressional authorization. The government urged the Court to turn down the case because the issue was effectively moot. The justices may have been reluctant to take a case involving something many consider to a political question; that is, something more appropriately handled by the political branches of government.

Professor of political science and judicial processes and constitutional law expert Dr. Rodney Grunes says these decisions are not at all surprising since "the Supreme Court is now controlled by pro-business and pro-conservative interest." Dr. Grunes notes that decisions such as these demonstrate the "importance of controlling the White House since it is the President who appoints the justices. The contributions of Reagan, Bush I, and Bush II are evident on the today's Court. Their appointments constitute a majority of conservatives on the Court." These appointments also represent the counter-revolution to the decisions of the Warren Court that President Nixon promised. Jeffery Toobin, in his recently published book on the Supreme Court, "The Nine," writes that the current Roberts Court has overturned more precedent in its brief tenure than all previous Supreme Courts combined.

CHAINS FOR CHANGE

Help the Centenary Environmental Association and Chemistry Club bring solar energy to campus! As an homage to treehuggers everywhere, Centenary big-shots President Schwab, Dr. Chirhart, Dr. Hamming, and Kevin Wagner have vowed to chain themselves to trees, but only if $300 per hugger is raised. Help us out by donating your spare change! All money raised will then be used to purchase an array of solar panels - keep an eye out for the tree-shaped donation boxes outside the offices of the treehuggers and at campus events.

NATIONAL NEWS

Investigation into Northern Illinois University shooting continues

Kari Patterson
Staff Writer

A little over a week after the tragedy at Northern Illinois University that killed five and wounded 18, the motive behind the shooting is still unclear. As NIU students continue to mourn, experts are still trying to discover why Steven Kazmierczak, 25, opened fire last Thursday in a NIU lecture hall with a shotgun and several handguns before fatally shooting himself. Kazmierczak, a former graduate student at NIU, was currently attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and was characterized by professors and others who knew him as a very good and motivated student, as well as a nice guy. There were apparently no indicators that would have suggested Kazmierczak was considering any violent actions.

Comments by his girlfriend, Jessica Baty, have sparked a new controversy, however. Baty announced that he had stopped taking medicine for anxiety a few weeks prior to the shootings, but denied that this had caused him to behave violently or erratically, as had earlier been reported. This has led to a series of debates over the potential hazards of mood-altering drugs, such as Prozac, which Kazmierczak allegedly was taking, in addition to the customary debates over gun laws that have occurred after every well-publicized shooting, but school shootings in particular. Though Kazmierczak purchased all of his guns legally, he bought accessories for several of the handguns used in the shooting from the same internet gun dealer who supplied Virginia Tech shooter Seung-Hui Cho with one of his weapons.

Fuelling the controversy and confusion further is Kazmierczak's educational background, which, according to CNN, was in sociology- specifically, criminal justice. Kazmierczak was apparently particularly passionate about working with prison inmates and had previously done a good deal of research in the mental health field as well. It seems that the more information is released about Kazmierczak's history, the more baffled experts seem to become as they try and piece together a motive for his attacks at the NIU campus.

A list of official memorial services and events, as well as information on the victims, can be found at http://www.niu.edu/index.shtml. Northern Illinois will resume classes on February 24.

Election '08 analysis: voters splitting along religious lines

Beth Craft
Staff Writer

In the February 12 vote in Virginia, CNN reports that Obama won 54 of the 83 delegates and Clinton gained 29. McCain took all 60 Republican delegate votes, leaving none for Huckabee or Ron Paul. Of those who voted, 55% who identified themselves as Protestants with weekly church attendance voted for Huckabee, and 39% did for McCain.

98% of voters for Huckabee said that he is the candidate more likely to beat the Democratic candidate; 64% of McCain's voters said the same of him. 60% of voters who identified themselves as born-again or evangelical Christians voted for Huckabee.

Obama and McCain won in Maryland, Obama with 60% of the vote, and McCain with 55%. Clinton took 18 delegate votes to Obama's 34, and McCain claimed all 31 for himself.

Of the voters who identified themselves as at least weekly churchgoers, 60% voted for Obama. 60% of non-college graduates supported Obama, as well as 57% of college graduates.

As more primaries take place, each candidate must maintain a firm hold on cash for campaigning. Though they spent approximately the same amount on campaigns, Clinton still has a little more than twice the money that Obama has on hand. Huckabee lacks a million on McCain, and both lack several million on Paul's reported $7,839,427.

Speaking of Paul, his message to readers on his official website (www.ronpaul2008.com) shines a light on his determination to stay in the race: "With Romney gone, the chances of a brokered convention are nearly zero. But that does not affect my determination to fight on, in every caucus and primary remaining."

Such a convention occurs when there is no candidate securing enough delegates to win the nomination of the party, at which point the convention is brokered through multiple ballots.

Since McCain has such a far lead over both Huckabee and Paul, he probably will secure the nomination, leaving no need for a brokered convention.

In the case of Clinton and Obama, however, a brokered convention is quite possible. They are almost tied now and will probably remain neck and neck through the summer.

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FEBRUARY 19 PRIMARY RESULTS

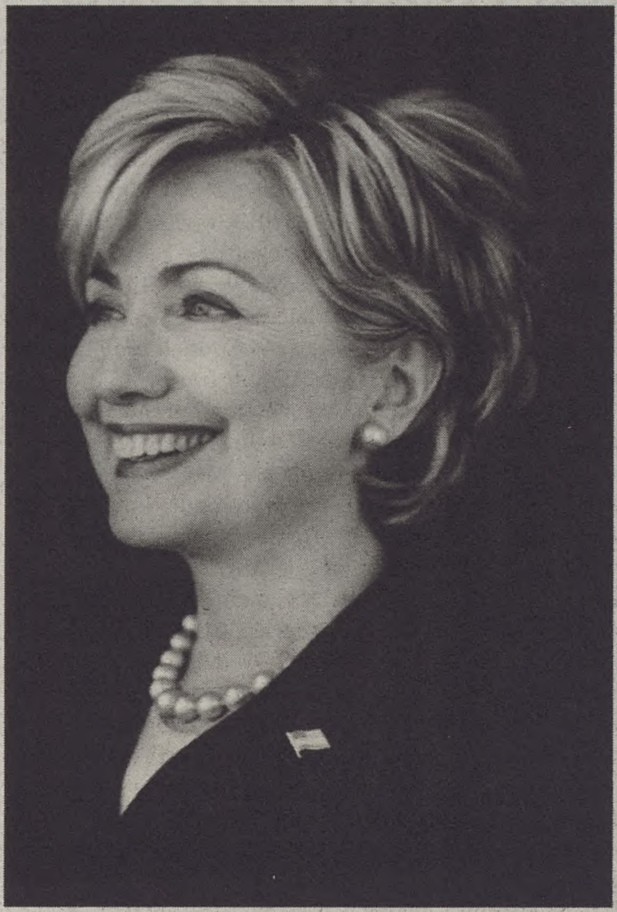
from CNN.com

Democrats
HAWAII
Obama 76% (14 delegates) Clinton 24% (6 delegates)
WISCONSIN
Obama 58% (42 delegates) Clinton 41% (32 delegates)

Republicans
WASHINGTON
McCain 49% (6 delegates) Huckabee 22% (0 delegates)
WISCONSIN
McCain 55% (31 delegates) Huckabee 37% (0 delegates)

THE RACE SO FAR
Obama 1,319 Clinton 1,250
McCain 918 Huckabee 217

Opinion: Vote Hillary, because speeches don't put food on the table



James King, Senior

Let's say, hypothetically, that President Schwab announced that he intended to depart Centenary College. A new committee formed to assist the Board of Trustees in selecting his replacement (I don't know if it works like this, but go with it). After months of searching, interviewing and discussing, the committee and board narrowed down their applicants to two. The decision won't be easy. The incoming president has to address Centenary's current problems: a poor financial situation, smaller than preferred student body, lower than preferred retention rate, an unpopular Student Life Office, grade inflation, and the loss of Political Science Professor Dr. Phil Barker to Austin College. The incoming president has to act to solve these problems in a timely and competent fashion to prevent the problems from worsening or stop new problems from emerging.

The first applicant is a personable, well-liked individual who can easily work a crowd. He has an optimistic but vague vision for the school. At his previous administrative jobs, which are few, he kept a low profile. Not much was accomplished, but he certainly didn't do a poor job. The second applicant is also personable, but not to the same degree as the first applicant. Some of her ideas and decisions have faced criticism, but her mistakes pale in comparison to her several years of overall administrative accomplishments and her dedication cannot be legitimately questioned. Her vision for Centenary is not steeped in flowery rhetoric like applicant #1, but it is filled with heaps of substance. Who would you choose as the replacement?

The purpose of this hypothetical should be clear at this point. Centenary is the U.S., Applicant #1 is Senator Obama, Applicant #2 is Senator Clinton, and President Schwab is President Bush (sorry, President Schwab). While analogies are problematic, this one allows me to do three things. First, it allows me to get a jab in at Centenary's administration. Second, I'm able to send a shout out to Dr. B. Finally, and more importantly, it places the ever contentious Democratic primary in a useful context. For the most part, middle to upper-middle class students who are insulated at a white, private, liberal arts college neither see nor are affected by the explicit effects of a war, a failing health care system and a grossly under-funded public education system like other groups in society. The effects of Centenary's problems mentioned earlier (which are not hypothetical, by the way) are more evident and have a direct effect on us. It is my feeling that when faced with the choice between the applicants for the Centenary job, most students would prefer the second applicant.

The 2008 presidential election, which is infinitely more important than the status of Centenary, yields a different scenario. As people are dying, hungry, and illiterate in one of the wealthiest nations in the world, college students are flocking to Applicant #1, not #2. The same lens used to view Centenary's problems should be magnified by 100 and focused on the state of our union. College students, however, can afford to let Obama entrance them with his beautiful serenade, but most Americans need progress from day one to curb these social ills. This is reflected in voting trends during the primary season. A majority of college students and higher income Americans give their support to Obama, while the working class stands behind Clinton, which is significant because they will suffer the most if they have to wait for Obama to get his feet wet. It would be possible for me to write for days about Clinton's résumé, but that usually falls on deaf ears. College students scoff at Clinton's experience and accomplishments. They label her as the establishment candidate and speak of Obama as if he is a revolutionary storming the Pentagon— the U.S. version of France's la Bastille. In reality, he is entrenched in the system that he claims to fight against. They think that he will ascend to the executive branch and flip a switch to solve complex problems. "Inspiration" and the prospect of "change" is why he's their main presidential squeeze.

Beyond an imagined "outsider" status, warm fuzzy feelings, and vague rhetoric, there's not much to their support for him. A friend last week informed me that she had been "converted" to Team Obama. I politely asked her why. She gave the reflex-like response about "change" that is so typical among Obamabots. When pressed to go beyond her one-word explanation, she told me that I put her "on the spot" and that she would have to get back to me via e-mail. She never did. Another friend sent me the lyrics to James Brown's "Funky President" with the caption, "this song by James Brown describes exactly why Barack Obama needs to be President." Should Obama become the nominee, I wonder if he will invoke the Godfather of Soul in his debate against 3 term U.S. Senator and former prisoner of war John McCain. The last exchange with an Obama supporter that I'll mention was more impressive, but still weak. His retort to Obama's inexperience and lack of substance was an election reform advocated by Obama while he served in the Illinois legislature, better access to the media than other politicians and appeals for bipartisanship. My favorite reason given by my friend is that Obama "isn't fake" because he admitted that he used illegal drugs the right way, unlike Clinton who claims that he "didn't inhale." While my Obama experiences with my friends are not representative of all students, my hunch is that discussions with others wouldn't deviate from this trend.

Before I go too far, please don't misunderstand my position in this 2008 election. As a good Democrat and progressive, I will enthusiastically support Obama should be become the candidate: the bumper sticker goes on my car (to the consternation of my father), I register with his campaign as a volunteer and I begin my liberal tirades against the prospect of a McCain presidency. Obama is a smart man who loves America and wants to help average Joe and Jane. On the flip side, some decisions made or supported by Clinton do not sit well with me, but when someone has been active in public policy for as long as she has, no one will agree with every decision. Clinton and Obama will both enact progressive "change" to counter the destructive policies of W. and the Republican Party, but I am convinced that Clinton will be more effective and swift in these frightening times. I'm also not convinced that she lacks the ability to inspire. Her long history of advocacy on behalf of disadvantaged groups stirs inspiration in many, including me. Obama's heart-felt appeals to our hopes and dreams are truly beautiful and the ability to inspire a nation is one of the greatest gifts one could possess, but Clinton put it best when she stated that "speeches don't put food on the table."

Photo: official headshot of Hillary Clinton from hillaryclinton.com.

Pride and prejudice: celebrating Black History Month

Amanda Russell
Staff Writer

Hoh-kay, so we've got the month of February. It's quite frankly the shortest month of the year. Nothing against February, but I like a month that's a little more stacked, if you know what I mean. This year just so happens to be a Leap Year so GET PUMPED for a Leap Year party coming soon to a dorm room near you. I'm quite certain that these Leap Year parties will erupt in residence halls campus-wide. RAs everywhere, this is a shout-out to you! I am sure that you can bank a few Communication Reports on February 29.

Besides being the month that blows January's tail and fights to rock as hard as March, the national "powers that be" decided to make February Black History Month. I can just see a room full of swollen, greasy white men smoking cigars as they decide to pick the shortest month of the year to celebrate African-American culture, pride, and achievement.

In all truthfulness, this is not the case. My comments merely show how a people, from the moment they stepped foot on American soil, was systematically discriminated against in the worst possible ways. While the obvious physical signs of discrimination--slavery, Jim Crow laws, and segregation--against African-Americans have long passed, more subtle forms of discrimination still exist and plague the success and growth of the US. Comprising 13.4% of the American population, African-Americans have played a vital role in the formation, development, and success of the American nation. Beginning as slaves, African-Americans are now fierce contenders for the American presidency. It has taken nearly two hundred years for African-Americans to achieve the same opportunities that white males have enjoyed since 1776. This fact reflects inherent biased attitudes against black Americans and a history of racism that has plagued American since its inception.

It may come as a surprise that Black History Month was created as a part of the nation's 1976 bicentennial. Black History month is modeled after Black History Week, first celebrated in February of 1926 after its creation by historian Carter G. Woodson. Woodson recognized that the role of African-Americans in history was either grossly misrepresented or missing altogether. After founding the Association for the Study of Negro Life in 1915 and the Journal of Negro History (now the Journal of African-American History), Woodson knew that more was necessary to help celebrate African-American contributions to American society. This culminated in the first Black History Week celebration, held during the second month of February, which is also the week of Frederick Douglas' and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays.

The Civil Rights struggle in the 1960s also reflected the growing pride in black history and culture. Political and social power can be divided into two categories: those who have it, and those who don't. During the Civil Rights movement, African-Americans across the US fought for equal protection under the law. African-Americans fought for equality in education, the elimination of segregation, the right to vote, and the right to exist as citizens on equal footing with the rest of America. It became clear over time that the right to vote was one of the most important weapons African-Americans could obtain to increase their social and political clout and gain equality. In true majoritarian fashion, whites did everything they could to prevent blacks from reaching the polls: grandfather clauses, poll taxes, all-white primaries, slowdowns at voter registrar's offices, complicated voter registration cards, and White Citizens Councils.

Despite insurmountable odds, African-Americans did not give up and fought for basic constitutional rights on a daily basis. Boycotts, sit-ins, marches, bus rides, and national meetings are but a few of the ways they gained the attention of the world. These actions directly confronted white authority and challenged the status quo. They also required much courage since the consequences could be extremely dangerous. With America fighting Communism abroad, it seemed odd that rights of the average African-American citizen were denied. Slowly, through the efforts of Civil Rights leaders, attorneys, and activists, white America woke up.

Black Americans technically enjoy the same rights as every other citizen; however, I would argue that this is actually not the case. Why is it that African-Americans receive discriminately harsher criminal penalties than whites? Why is it that African-Americans experience higher and longer duration rates of poverty? Why are African-Americans profiled in shopping malls? The reason is that African-Americans came to this country as slaves, and despite the fact that whites have been forced to accept them for what they are--actual human beings--many whites still struggle with this. Racism is a real, ugly monster that lives in every closet of every home in America.

I would like to say that the Civil Rights struggle was largely successful. In terms of getting rights down on paper, it was, but in terms of changing the hearts and minds of white America and the inherent underpinnings of the legal system, it was not. The legal system is fundamentally opposed to minorities, including African-Americans. Racist attitudes are similarly reflected in the white population. Until the nation wakes up and realizes the stupidity of such thoughts, celebrations like Black History Month and continued civil rights activity must endure to demonstrate the vitality and growth of a most valued people.

My favorite Civil Rights quote is not from MLK or Rosa Parks, but from a young black person simply known as "A Negro." In 1959, he wrote a letter to the leader of the White Citizens Council in Louisiana. He wrote: "Every time you knock us down, we get up fighting twice as hard. Black stands for strength, and that, my people have. We won't give up. We may give out, but give up? Never." To me, this represents the spirit of Black History Month and black achievement. Despite being spit on by America, African-Americans decided to stay in the country that enslaved them and help it grow by raising families, starting businesses, and contributing to capitalism. African-Americans have contributed much to this nation, and it is more than appropriate that Black History Month is the vehicle that celebrates their achievements and culture. For more information on Black History Month, visit the US Census Bureau's website.

Centenary's 17th Annual Student Research Forum

The end of the spring semester is within sight, and we wanted to remind you of our 17th Annual Student Research Forum. We take great pride in our students' research here at Centenary, and we look forward to the time that we have set aside for them to present that research to the whole College community. The presentations of the 17th Annual Forum are scheduled for Friday, April 25th, 2008, which is a little less than 3 months from now.

Awards and cash prizes will be given to the winners of the oral presentations and the poster presentations. We will provide more details later, but we hope that all of you will participate in this upcoming forum. We hope that student-researchers will share their work with the rest of us, and we hope as well that their colleagues and classmates will join the faculty in celebrating that work.

We wish all of you students well on your research and on your posters or oral presentations.

If you have any questions about this upcoming 17th annual research forum, please contact the director, Matt Weeks, whose email address is: rmweeks@centenary.edu, or office phone: 841-7268.

After a half century of leadership in Cuba, Fidel Castro steps down

Jonathan Hedley
Contributing Writer

Fidel Castro has finally stepped down after 49 years as leader of Cuba at the age of 81, transferring power officially to his younger brother Raúl, 76. In an open letter, the former dictator announced his retirement via Cuba's state newspaper Granma.

"I communicate to you that I will not aspire to or accept ... the position of President of Council of State and Commander in Chief."

After undergoing surgery for stomach problems 19 months ago, Castro appointed his brother as interim leader and has not been seen in public since. It is understood that he will now take a far less active background role as First Secretary of the Communist Party.

The move has not surprised many Cubans or the international community, after Castro's spate of health problems in recent years. It is thought that Raúl Castro 'may implement mild reforms' but major regime changes are not expected in the near future.

Fidel Castro seized power in Cuba on New Year's Day of 1959 from the previous, U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista, in an iconic revolution that immortalized his comrade and fellow Marxist, Che Guevara.

The U.S. and several other countries placed an embargo on the small Caribbean country of 11 million people after Castro's new government began appropriating American assets there. But it was Cuba's strategically fundamental location just 90 miles off Florida's coast that caused arguably the greatest ever threat to U.S. national security. Throughout the Cold War, Cuba proved to be a thorn in the side of the U.S. government, but never more than in 1962 when a failed U.S. invasion brought to light the discovery that Castro had allowed Soviet missiles to be placed there. The Cuban Missile Crisis would prove to be one of the most tense moments in the presidency of John F. Kennedy. Similarly, the U.S. refusal to give back Guantanamo Bay would be, to this day, a hard pill for Cubans to swallow.

During Castro's 49 years in power, he has seen nine U.S. Presidents come and go, and has resisted several attempts by the CIA to remove him from power by covert or other means. Despite economic disaster in 1991, which saw the fall of the Soviet Union spell a sudden end in billions of dollars of funding, he remains an icon and an inspiration to generations of anti-capitalists the world over, as does the emotive image of Guevara.

In 1953 he had masterminded an attack on the Moncada Barracks of Batista's junta near Santiago de Cuba. The attack was a failure and Castro was brought to trial, during which he made his famous speech, "History Will Absolve Me." He was released from prison after two years and went to Mexico to plot Batista's overthrow.

In the years since Castro's rise to power, several hundred thousand Cuban dissidents have fled to the U.S. The feelings among Cubans, who very rarely in their history have ever exercised freedom of opinion, tend to be mixed. Many who live there are reluctant to speak frankly of Castro, whether through fear of retribution or fondness for the father of the revolution. While state doctors and soldiers earn less in a month than many Americans do in a day, the country also boasts 100% adult literacy and a health service that puts its U.S. neighbors to shame.

There is no indication that the U.S. embargo on Cuba will end any time in the near future, as long as Fidel or his brother are in power.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Centenary acts for human rights

The Centenary chapter of Amnesty International planned an event for February to raise awareness about Zmitser Dashkevich, a youth leader imprisoned in Belarus for advocating political freedom. However, such an event never took place - because of the good news that Dashkevich was released on January 23. Amnesty International launched a global campaign for members worldwide to write in to Belarusian authorities. In December alone, thousands of Americans appealed for his release, and student activists around the world sent in 10,000 origami cranes as a symbolic plea for freedom.

Group Coordinator and Centenary senior Megan Ottesen wants to alert students to the the Reebok Human Rights Summer Fellowship, which offers students a unique opportunity to gain practical experience in the field of human rights. Amnesty is recruiting fellows to spend summer 2008 working with organizations connected to Reebok Human Rights award winners or Amnesty. Postings are in the United States and abroad. Fellows receive funds up to a maximum of $2,500 to use towards air travel and other expensese. Projects typically last 4-6 weeks. More information can be found at the student center at www.aiusa.org.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 26, at 7:30 in the SUB. Everyone is welcome. The next Centenary Amnesty event, a Darfur Awareness display, will take place the week of March 9.

For more information, visit www.amnesty.org. To find out how you can get involved with the Centenary chapter, contact Group Coordinator Megan Ottesen at mottesen@centenary.edu.

A&E

Review: "Jumper" falls short of high expectations

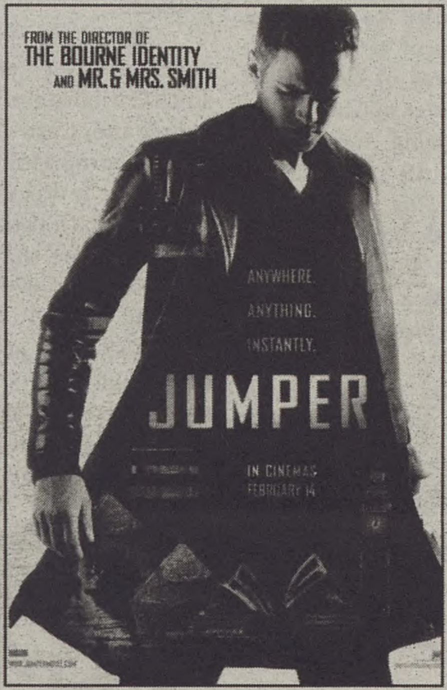
Sam Ortiz
Staff Writer

Love, chocolate, and vigilante, teleporting hunks on the run from the evil, murderous "Paladin." The opening day of the film "Jumper" added that extra action-packed adventure tagged onto the end of a string of Valentine's Day norms.

Directed by Doug Liman ("The Bourne Identity") and starring high-profile stars such as Samuel L. Jackson ("Snakes on a Plane"), Hayden Christenson (the "Star Wars" prequels), and Rachel Bilson (FOX's "The O.C.') a movie like this one is a huge box office draw.

It's got all the killer ingredients: pretty, young stars, car chases, fight scenes and a romance. So what went wrong? Let's face it. Was there any other reason besides their tantalizing sex appeal that got Christenson and Bilson their parts? Although Hayden showed vast improvement from the emotionless monotony that was Anakin Skywalker, in all sincerity the poor guy still isn't even fit for soap opera stardom. On the bright side, maybe Dell needs a new guy...

At least the movie made me feel inspired. In its honor I am now convinced that the MPAA should set regulations on all action films. If the film is perceived and advertised as an action film it should: (a) actually be one and (b) have a certain amount of action by a certain amount of time into the movie (ergo, not the last ten minutes). The definite killing point of the movie for me was the 70+ minutes I had to sit (bored I might add) waiting for the final, unrealistic battle at the end.



Don't allow the fact that you leave scratching your head fool you. It isn't because it was so thought-provoking you couldn't stop thinking about it. There are more loopholes in the plotline than munchkins in Oz.

If you hate having crazy storylines explained to you, then this is the movie for you. There is nothing that I hate more than bashing a movie. I understand the time and work that went into it, but I don't feel like I can recommend this one to anyone. I mean, can you just imagine what I'd find in all that hate mail? Good thing I don't have an honesty box on my Facebook. As always, see for yourself - but if you do, hate to say I told you so.

Review: "Definitely, Maybe" serves its cutesy purpose

Sam Ortiz
Staff Writer

"Definitely, Maybe" is a movie where the title is just as ambiguous as your drive to see it. The question being, does the fact that it is cute outweigh that it's not a cinematic masterpiece?

Director Adam Brooks' film survived on its casting. Ryan Reynolds ("Van Wilder") stars as Will Hayes, a single father recounting his life's three serious relationships to his young daughter. Though most of the story is spent in flashbacks, Abigail Breslin ("Little Miss Sunshine") shines as Hayes' young, curious and smart-aleck daughter Maya. While Reynolds does a good job carrying the film, the true diamond in the rough is easily "Wedding Crashers" star Isla Fisher, who plays one of Will's love interests, April. She is vivacious, adorable, charming, and most importantly, the best display of electrifying chemistry with her costar Reynolds.

That is all well and good, but it has to be brought up how long the movie is. The middle section is a little lengthy and could have easily been shortened without the random Kevin Kline ("In & Out") scenes (funny, yet not necessary) and without drawing out his stories with Summer (Rachel Weisz, "The Constant Gardener") and Emily/Sarah (Elizabeth Banks, "Slither").

After a while, not only was I sick of hearing Hayes' whining, I felt like I just needed to catch my breath. It was running a marathon following him through his romantic memories: from Emily, to Summer, to April, to Emily, to April, and on, and on...but at least Kline and Weisz are fun to watch.

Abigail Breslin plays Ryan Reynold's daughter in "Definitely, Maybe." Photo courtesy of imdb.com

Now I understand that this is no "Atonement" or anything of the sort, but I enjoyed it. The plot was a bit trite and predictable and the technical aspects were not exactly beautiful work; however, for what it was made for, it did its job. I especially loved the dozens of hidden political quips (a Clinton campaign worker comments on George W. Bush ("if he's smart he'll go back to baseball"), and Reynolds' sarcastic sense of humor. As a romantic lead he is both loveable and believable, and it doesn't hurt that his boyishly good looks are easy on the eyes. Watch out, though - the end is a little bit, well a lot, corny, but wildly satisfying.

The Conglomerate presents predictions for the 80th Annual Academy Awards

Todd Johnson
A&E Editor

Well, it is that time of year again. It is time for the Academy Awards. After some worries about whether there would even be a show with the writers' strike going on, the show will go on as planned (mostly because the writers' strike is now over).

As a movie fan, I look forward to this time of year and the announcement of the nominees and winners, though I rarely agree with them in the end. After all, not all great movies win the Oscar for Best Picture (films like "The Wizard of Oz," "Citizen Kane," "Star Wars," "E.T.," and "Saving Private Ryan" did not win), and many of the winners were not the best pictures of the year ("Crash" anyone?).

But before I get to the films nominated for Best Picture, I'll start with the nominees for Best Actress. This year, Cate Blanchett ("Elizabeth: The Golden Age"), Ellen Page ("Juno"), Julie Christie ("Away From Her"), Marion Cotillard ("La Vie En Rose"), and Laura Linney ("The Savages") are the nominees. As I have only seen Page's performance in "Juno," I cannot give my judgment, though the smart money for the winner would be on Marion Cotillard, who has won many of the acting awards that precede the Oscars.

For Best Actor, the nominees are Johnny Depp ("Sweeney Todd"), Daniel Day-Lewis ("There Will Be Blood"), Viggo Mortenson ("Eastern Promises"), George Clooney ("Michael Clayton"), and Tommy Lee Jones ("In The Valley of Elah"). While my personal pick is Johnny Depp, because his performance in Sweeney Todd was so amazing, the winner will be Daniel Day-Lewis. This race is not really a contest at this point.

For Best Adapted Screenplay, the nominees are "Atonement," "There Will Be Blood," "Away From Her," "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly," and "No Country for Old Men." So far, all of the nominees are about equal, though I just have a gut feeling that "No Country for Old Men" will take it because the writing in that movie is so sharp. However, this category is tough, as any movie is just as likely to win.

Original Screenplay nominees include "Juno," "Michael Clayton," "Lars and the Real Girl," "Ratatouille," and "The Savages." Is this even really a contest? "Juno" has one of the most celebrated scripts in some time, so I expect that it will own this category very handily.

Next, we come to directing. For Best Director this year, the nominees are Paul Thomas Anderson ("There Will Be Blood"), The Coen Brothers ("No Country For Old Men"), Tony Gilroy ("Michael Clayton"), Julien Schnabel ("The Diving Bell and the Butterfly"), and Jason Reitman ("Juno"). I have a feeling that the Coen Brothers have finally earned their long-awaited Oscar. However, Schnabel and Anderson could both also win. Reitman and Gilroy are both long odds in this category.

For Best Animated Feature, the nominees are "Persepolis," "Ratatouille," and "Surf's Up." Basically, this is a dead heat race between "Persepolis" (which is about a girl from Iran and her coming of age) and "Ratatouille." While "Persepolis" is generally perceived as the better film of the two, I think that "Ratatouille" will walk away the winner in this category.

Then, we come to the big daddy of the evening: Best Picture. The nominees for this category are "Atonement," "Juno," "Michael Clayton," "No Country For Old Men," and "There Will Be Blood." Unlike many years, each one of these movies has a legitimate shot of taking home the gold. Also, like many years, my favorite movie of the year is not nominated ("Sweeney Todd" was unjustly overlooked). However, the leader of the pack here is "No Country For Old Men," but I can easily see "Atonement" or "There Will Be Blood" taking home the prize. However, if I had to pick, my vote would be with "No Country For Old Men."

Remember, however, that these are my picks and my best guesses. I could very easily be wrong on all of this. The only guarantee is that this year's awards will have more of the same cheesiness that we have come to expect from the Academy Awards. And I'll be watching every second of it.

Futuro Boots rocks out at the Jackrabbit Lounge

Amanda Russell
Futuro Fan

It's Futuro-o baby c'mon! Shreveport's Jackrabbit Lounge hosted Arkansas rap collective Futuro Boots last Saturday. Futuro Boots is famous around these parts due to band member and Centenary alum Sammy Williams. Williams, a Centenary favorite, makes sure that when Futuro comes to Shreveport, they don't disappoint.

Williams describes Futuro Boots as a "collective" in the band's MySpace blog. The band has "numerous members, living in different places, and not everyone can make it to every show. Futuro Boots in an entity, an attitude, not just a set number or group of people. When you come to a Futuro Boots show, you never really know who you're going to see. There may be anywhere from one to four of the members performing a show." Futuro Boots members include Lil' Compassion (Williams), Fly Shoes (Chet Harvey), Johnny Supremo (Johnny Raines), The Great Atomic Power (Chris H.), Bruce Illest aka Optimus

Rhyme (Lance Schexnaydre), Tip Drill, MC Cooter Dalton, and Knucklzzz.

My first Futuro experience well surpassed my expectations. Prior to the show, Futuro Boots members mingled with the crowd. About 30 people showed up to see Futuro Boots. Conversation flowed and the Boots seemed like average ordinary citizens. But as the show began, the Futuro guys donned their rap personas and went to town. Lil' Compassion did not disappoint in his signature gold jacket.

Futuro Boots combines electronic beats with smart, sarcastic lyrics. Wit and intelligence is the name of the lyric game. In "The F-Word," the Boots rap "if I was a congressman, I'd make it a bill that the only F-word that can come out your mouth is Futuro-o." In "Environmental Girl," the Boots ask their eco-friend muse to "hug on a tree or hug on me." In citizen-friendly fashion, "Futuro Boots PSA" encourages criminals to "put down your guns and pick up a book."

The Boots' set rocked out the Lounge. The crowd sang along with Futuro, and a few people danced and rocked out at the stage. The lyrics were easily understandable (quite an accomplishment for rappers) and the transitions between songs were quick and effortless. My only complaint about the show is that is wasn't long enough! Futuro could have rocked out all night and it still wouldn't have been enough.

For more information and announcements about show dates, check out Futuro Boots on MySpace at www.myspace.com/futuroboots.

Musical Theater Review lights up Centenary

Amanda Russell
Staff Writer

The recently chartered Centenary Musical Theater Group presented its musical review entitled "Lovin' Ain't Easy" in Anderson Auditorium last Saturday night. The cast, comprised of Centenary students who made it through auditions, presented songs from various Broadway musicals. This student-led organization was formed in the spring of 2005. If you had seen the show without knowing the history of the group, you would have thought it was directed by a professional. Instead, the Board of Directors - Adam Philley (Musical Director), Missy Wise (Musical Director), Marcus Jauregui (Choreographer) and Amanda Geneux (Choreographer) - was entirely composed of Centenary students.

The show was outstanding. The cast has only been practicing for a few weeks, but it seems like they have been working on this show for months. The show was accompanied by Ruben Reyes on piano, Michael Rafferty on guitar, Kirk Reedstrom on bass, and Jeremy DelaCerda on drums. The musical accompanists provided exactly the right amount of pizzazz needed to push the show over the top. At times the drums dominated the set, but not in a way that overshadowed the performers on stage. Travis Orr narrated the review. Orr was charming and engaging. This guy should run for political office, because he sure knew how to work that crowd.

The show began with a company number, "Nicest Kids in Town" from "Hairspray." CJ Winkle led the cast. The music and choreography in this number were outstanding. Each cast member brought energy and lots of fun to the number. The combination of the singing, music, and dancing in this number at times drowned Winkle out. His voice combined with his natural moves was captivating and made this piece a perfect opening act.

Lindsey Hotaling and Travis Orr then followed in "Old Fashioned Wedding" from "Annie Get Your Gun." Hotaling was charming, and her acting abilities made her character someone you could relate to. Orr was, of course, charming as well. Their duet was precious.

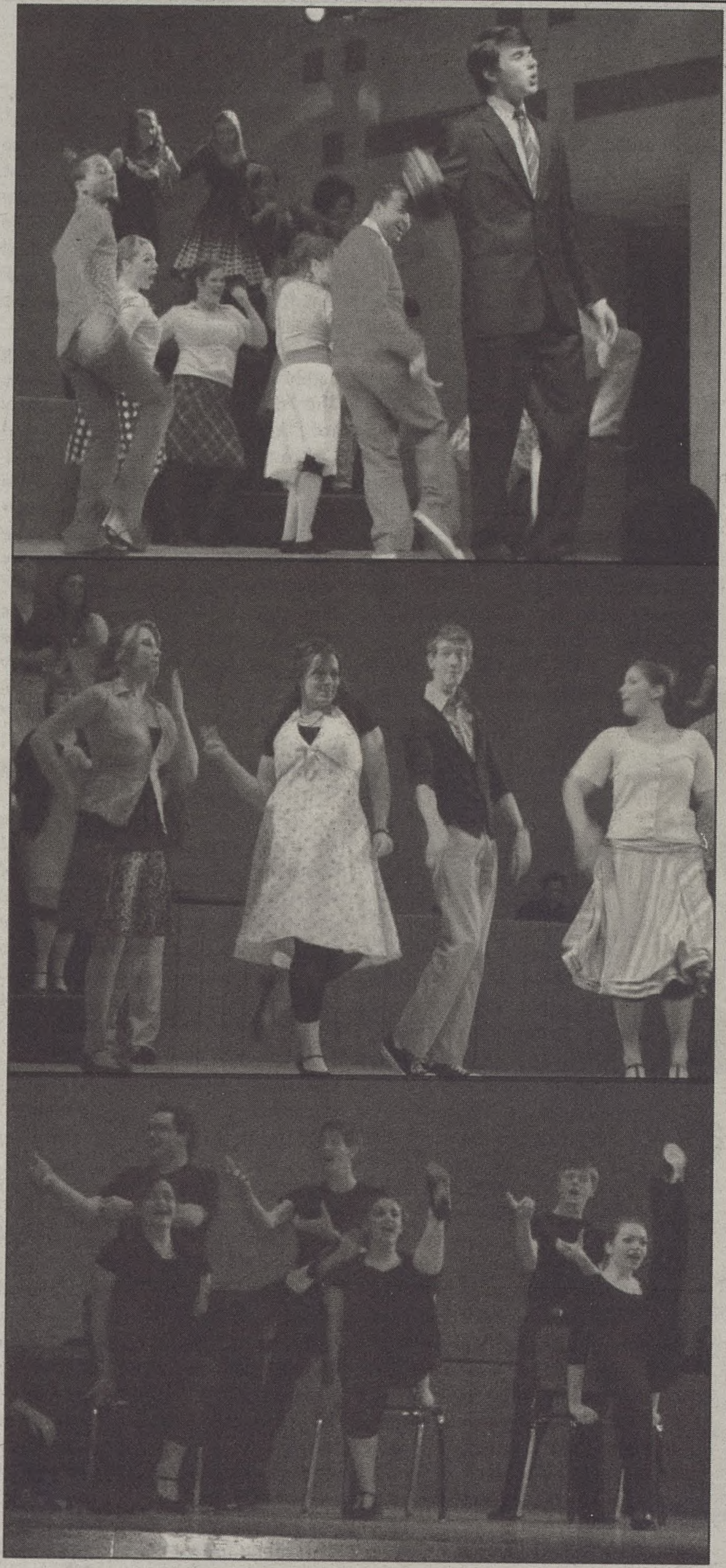
Next came Allyson Wilson singing "Daddy's Son" from "Ragtime." OH MY GOSH, this girl can sing. Her voice filled the room and literally captivated an absolutely stunned audience. She was poised, prepared, and combined just the right amount of emotion and passion needed to pull off "Daddy's Son." The music industry needs to watch out for Ms. Wilson!

Crowd favorite Lori Lusted fulfilled her dream to play one of her most beloved parts, Mary Poppins. In company number "Anything Can Happen," Lusted played the British super nanny and was actually accompanied by a precious little girl on stage. Lusted became Poppins and actually blew gold glitter out of her hand at the end of the number, adding that special spark to top off this brilliantly choreographed number.

For me, Marcus Jauregui and Emma Cook stole the show with "I Am Aldolfo" from "The Drowsy Chaperone." Jauregui played the elusive seducer Aldolfo. I can't really describe this performance - it is one of the best things I've ever seen in my life. Jauregui was born for the stage. He was born to perform. The more feedback the crowd gave, the more Jauregui gave in return. At points during the performance Jauregui impersonated a bull, gave the audience a butt hump, and jumped through the open legs of Cook. Cook's acting and dancing abilities were also substantial. Cook combined just the right about of sexuality and surprise in her performance.

Nolan Budgewater and Nancy Carey and company then presented "Make our Garden Grow" from "Candide." This was one of the more complicated songs of the review. Budgewater and Carey handled the high notes of the song with ease. Carey was absolutely stunning on stage and Budgewater's displays of

continued on page 17



Top: Sophomore CJ Winkle performs "Nicest Kids in Town" from "Hairspray."
Middle: Cast members continue tribute to "Hairspray."
Bottom: Cast sings and dances to the music of "Chicago."
Photos by Cynthia Parish.

Camerata celebrates 25th Anniversary with concert Saturday

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

Camerata, one of the Hurley School of Music's choral ensembles, is celebrating its 25th Anniversary, capping off Centenary's Homecoming Celebration with a Reunion Concert on Saturday night, February 23, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The music school is expecting over 40 Camerata alumni to take part in this special concert, traveling from all over the country to be at Centenary for the performance. The alumni group will present concert selections featuring Beethoven, Brahms, and many of their favorite contemporary pieces that have been performed over the years. Throughout the past 25 years, Camerata has performed numerous concerts with a wide variety of music.

Camerata was founded in 1983 by Dr. Gale Odom, the current Dean of the Hurley School of Music. Dr. Thorn became the conductor of the group in 1997 when she arrived at Centenary. Throughout the 11 years that Dr. Thorn has been the conductor, the group has grown significantly in quality and quantity. According to a recent Centenary news release, Dr. Thorn said, "I am thrilled with the opportunity to make music once again with so many of the gifted students who have been such a part of Camerata's success." Most notably, Camerata performed at Carnegie Hall as invited solo artists on the Masterworks Concert series and premieres and records various projects for the Santa Barbara Music Publishing Company.

Included in this Saturday's program will be works composed by alumni Taylor Davis and James Eakin and the special occasion-commissionedpiecebyinternationally acclaimed New Zealand composer David Childs. The current Camerata will present the world premier of his work, "Our Birth is But a Sleep," a piece inspired by Wordsworth's "Intimations of Immortality."

Camerata and its alumni will combine to perform two pieces that have been on the playbill many times during Dr. Thorn's reign, the hymn arrangement "Precious Lord" and the spiritual "My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord," both promising to raise you out of your seats and into the aisles of Anderson Auditorium. The concert will conclude with a beautiful piece by American composer Stephen Paulus called "The Road Home," signifying the return of so many former students to their Alma Mater.

The concert promises to bring thrills, chills, and gorgeous music to Centenary and the surrounding community. With all the excitement of Homecoming in the air, there is no reason why this concert won't be lifting people out of their seats for standing ovations and roaring applause. This concert is free and open to the public, so be sure to bring all of your friends to enjoy the wonderful sounds of the Centenary College Camerata.

Continued from page 16: Musical Theater Review lights up Centenary

emotion and the passion in his voice were definitely Broadway-worthy.

Emma Cook was back on stage with Bret Bello and Virginia-Kate Mather in "Getting Married" from "Company." Once again, Cook dazzled when she became a paranoid potential runaway bride. If you're not familiar with this song, the music calls for Cook's character to literally speak/sing the words of the song in rapid-fire fashion. Not only did Cook's voice sound fantastic, but she was completely understandable and pulled off the neurotic character perfectly. Bello was charming, funny, and completely in character as usual. Mather was one of the breakout performances of the show. She has a big voice and was able to hit some hard notes. She definitely brought a lot to the performance.

Michael Jarboe, Andy Osborn, and Chrissy Wise followed with "I Wish I Could Go Back to College" from "Avenue Q." Jarboe, Osborn, and Wise used puppets to "sing" their number. I'm not familiar with the show, so I have no idea what the puppets were about. But they were cute. Jarboe was hilarious as usual. Osborn was another breakout performer. His acting skills and ability to cater his voice to the particular character he portrays was professional and expertly executed.

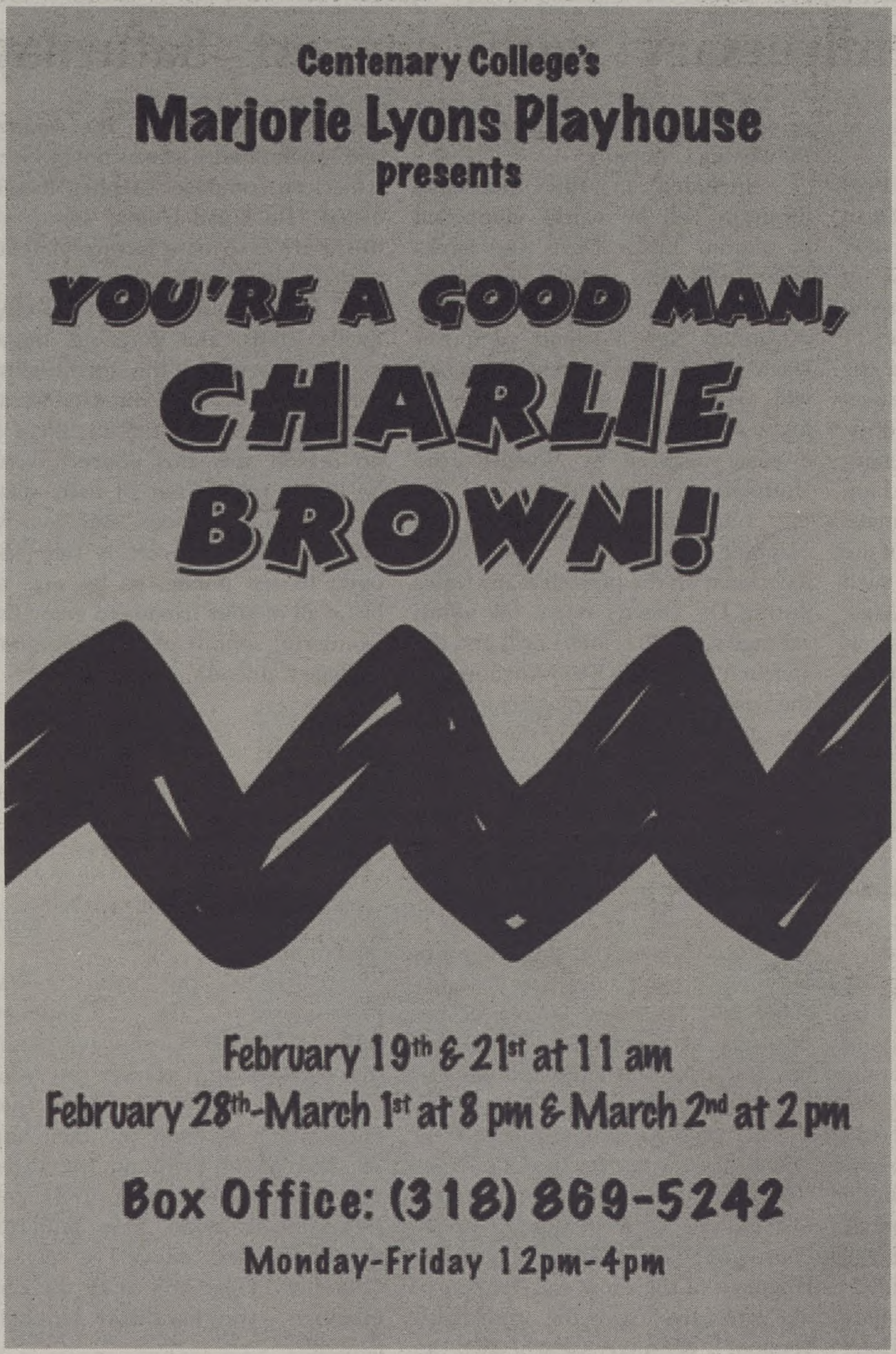
"Mama Bore Me" from "Spring Awakening" was then performed by Peyton Davis, Katie Jones, Caitlin Kennedy, Carrier Mercer, and Emily Mwakitawa. Caitlin Kennedy led the number. She has a sweet voice and the piece was reminiscent of 'folksy' music. It reminded me of a Sheryl Crow song. The crew on this number brought a lot of energy to the stage and their voices blended beautifully.

Missy Wise and Adam Philley then performed a number. I don't what the song was or what show it was from (it wasn't in the program), but it was great. Philley is an amazing actor and his voice is one of my favorites at Centenary. Wise also brought a lot of energy and passion to her performance.

Finally, the company performed "We Both Reached for the Gun" from "Chicago." Misty Lane and Travis Orr led the crew in this creatively choreographed number. The body language of the crew was "puppety-like" to give you the shorthand version. It definitely spearheaded the performance and made for a great final number.

Overall, the show was phenomenal. The Centenary Musical Theater Group represents the hardworking average everyday Centenary students – until they put on their makeup, put their hair up, and go to town on the stage. The show was charming, lively, and professionally done. It is definitely one of the best shows I've seen at Centenary. Great job to all the cast members – your hard work definitely paid off.

Senior Lori Lusted performs "Mary Poppins" number "Anything can Happen." Photo by Cynthia Parish.


Centenary College's
Marjorie Lyons Playhouse
presents
YOU'RE A GOOD MAN,
CHARLIE
BROWN!
February 19th & 21st at 11 am
February 28th-March 1st at 8 pm & March 2nd at 2 pm
Box Office: (318) 869-5242
Monday-Friday 12pm-4pm

Peanuts! Peanuts! Get your PEANUTS!

Charles Schultz's beloved gang is gathering at Marjorie Lyons Playhouse for a game of baseball, Beethoven's birthday, music and dancing. Bring the whole family to see your favorite comic strip characters come to life as they raise Charlie Brown's spirits. The gang needs your applause and laughter to convince him "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!" The gang will meet at Centenary College's Marjorie Lyons Playhouse for public performances on February 28-March 1 at 8p.m. and March 2 at 2p.m.

Tickets are FREE for Centenary students! Call the Box Office for ticket reservations at (318) 869-5242 or stop by between noon and 4p.m. Monday through Friday.

"Across the Universe" DVD is a must-buy for any Beatles fan

Courtney Delaney
Layout Editor

In most DVDs, the Special Features section is reserved for previews of B movies, occasionally a short interview medley of the cast and director, and if you're really lucky, subtitles in Spanish. The 2-disc DVD set for the movie "Across the Universe, though, exceeded all of my expectations and refused to disappoint. Also, for a few bucks more you can buy it with a song booklet chock-full of stunning pictures and the complete lyrics of each song in the film.

Even if you are one of the many who were unable to catch the movie in the theater, due to lack of funds, transportation, or you just have flaky, loser friends, I would highly recommend buying this DVD. Not only is the movie beautiful and entertaining, the features are fantastic. First off, the menu screens are artful and entertaining in themselves. If I could, I would set the opening menu as my screen saver on my computer so that I could enjoy it everyday. Also, there are commentaries with the brilliant director, Julie Taymor, and composer Elliot Goldenthal. Also, you can listen to the movie in Spanish, Portuguese, and French. This is highly entertaining, though the separate languages are limited to dialogue only, and not the music numbers. In addition to the other language options, there are about eight different options for subtitles - more than I have seen on any other DVD - including Korean, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Spanish and several more. And all of this is just on the first disc!

When you pop in the second disc you are given access to a plethora of brilliant special features. Packed with extended musical numbers and a photo gallery of some 100 pictures of on-set snap shots, design photos, and the artwork of the character Jude, which was all produced by artist Don Nace.

Then there are the behind the scenes featurettes, which are really the best part of the entire package. There are five in all, and they all give brilliant insight into the amazing and talented minds behind such an artful movie. "Creating the Universe" is a broad discussion of the cast and crew on the making of the film, including on-set filming of the crew at work. Not to mention this featurette gives a great insight into the predominantly experimental production of the movie and a glance inside the mind of the director Taymor. Next is "Stars of Tomorrow," which takes an individual look at each of the main characters and the up-and-coming actors that portray each. During this featurette there are many sequences where you get an inside look at rehearsals and auditions. In "Moving Across the Universe," you watch as the choreographer, Daniel Ezralow, develops the dance scenes, more specifically the spectacular "I Want You" number. My personal favorite featurette was "All About the Music," where we witness the reinvention of over 30 Beatles songs. In this section we are shown how Goldenthal and Tanmor work together to keep the spirit of the original songs but revive them to work with the storyline and medium. Finally, we are given a look at the stunning, trippy special effects in "FX on the Universe."

Overall, this DVD is a great buy for anyone who enjoyed the movie and even those who have yet to have the pleasure of viewing it. Most of all, it's just plain fun. You get exclusive looks inside the movie and you get to look on as the cast and crew explore the boundless opportunities of artistic expression and just have a blast doing it.

SPORTS

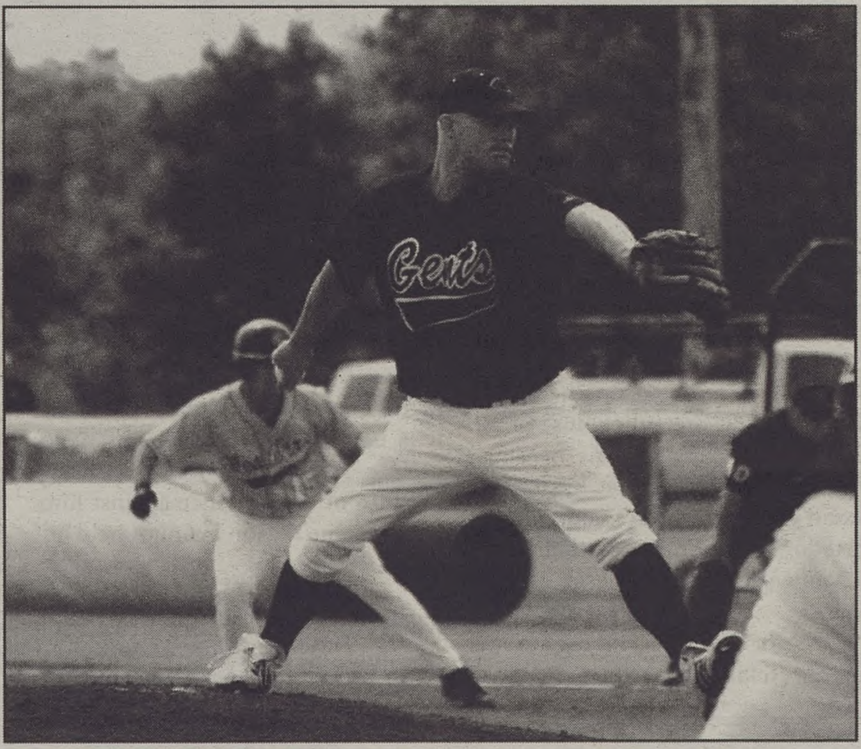
Gents Baseball prepares to open season

Aaron Bronson
Staff Writer

The 2007 Centenary Gentlemen baseball team fell just short in the conference championship to the now 10-time conference champions Oral Roberts Golden Eagles. However, the Gents posted their best overall record since 1991 at 28-31. The Gents also brought home many other accolades throughout the 2007 campaign. Current senior third-basemen Teddy Saenz and sophomore pitcher Dakota Robinson received 2nd-Team All Mid-Continent honors for their season-long contributions. Returnees Cameron Penney (first-base/utility) and Jeremy Sheehan (pitcher) were awarded to the Mid-Con Baseball All-Tournament Team. However, gone is Brandon Fulenchek, the 2007 Mid-Continent Student/Athlete of the Year and 1st-Team starting pitcher.

Not only did the Gentlemen bring home some valuable hardware; they picked up some big wins along the way. These included victories early in the year over Kansas State (34-24) of the Big 12 and Penn State (31-26) of the Big 10. Along with those big wins were a couple of well fought, close games with SEC powers #9 Arkansas (43-21) and LSU (29-26-1); the Gentlemen fell 16-14 and 2-1 respectively.

The success generated from the 2007 season has led to great optimism and some national attention for the upcoming 2008 campaign. The newly created Ping!Baseball.com not only named Robinson a 2nd-Team Freshman All-American in December, but just this past week Ping!Baseball tabbed the Centenary Gents as the spotlight team of the week. The website has chosen a team each week from the 300-plus Division One baseball programs across the country for the past four weeks. Ping! reviews last season's success and helps preview the Gents' upcoming season. Ping! also denotes key returnees and some of the impact newcomers to the squad.


Jeremy Sheehan, photo courtesy of gocentenary.com

Team experience and depth is what will help carry the Gents throughout the upcoming season. Of the 29 roster players, 16 (eight pitchers and eight position players) return with at least one year of experience. Among the 13 newcomers, nine hail from junior college programs, which give them two years of college baseball experience at a slightly lower level. Of the four freshmen, two have big-time arms and will be asked to step into valuable roles right out of the gate. Freshmen Justin Kraft of Yakima, Washington, will fill in as the #3 starter, while Boone Whiting of Oakdale, California, will be asked to step into the demanding closer role.

The Gents have been hard at work since their arrival in late August. With the off-season regimen of 4-on-1's, team practice, intersquad scrimmages, and weight sessions, the baseball squad has done everything possible to help compete at the top of the league. The Gentlemen were picked to finish third of the eight-team Summit League by Rivals.com and the coaches of the Summit League placed them at third as well, with one first-place vote.

The Centenary Gents baseball team opens up the season this Friday, February 22, vs. Northern Iowa at the friendly confines of Shehee Stadium. The Ping!Baseball spotlight article can be accessed from GoCentenary.com under the baseball news section.

Gymnastics team is off to a strong start

Beth Craft
Staff Writer

The Centenary Ladies Gymnastic team started the season strong with a sweep victory over the Air Force Academy. Four consecutive losses to Illinois-Chicago, Illinois State, Missouri, and Southeast Missouri gave the ladies their 2-4 record. Though the team lost to Southeast Missouri on February 10, they achieved their highest team score of the season: 192.575. The team works very hard, practicing at least 16 hours each week. When asked how it feels to be a part of such a great group, sophomore Whitney Daugherty said, "It feels amazing! I love being part of such a wonderful group of girls; we have so much fun together. They are like my second family; I absolutely love being on the gymnastics team here!" Daugherty feels the team will do well at the upcoming meets and has a "great chance of winning" at nationals, adding, "If we can do what we are capable of on the gym floor, we will do great!" Their next meet, against Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas, is on Saturday, February 23. On Sunday, March 2, the Ladies will host Louisiana State University at 2 p.m. Be sure to come out and support your Centenary Ladies as they battle for victory. Looking towards nationals, Daugherty would like to remind everyone that we are hosting nationals this year at Centenary and it would be great if we could get a huge home crowd for the enthusiasm. Mark your calendars for the week of April 16 to watch some great gymnastics in the Gold Dome!

Opinion: Liar or Legend?

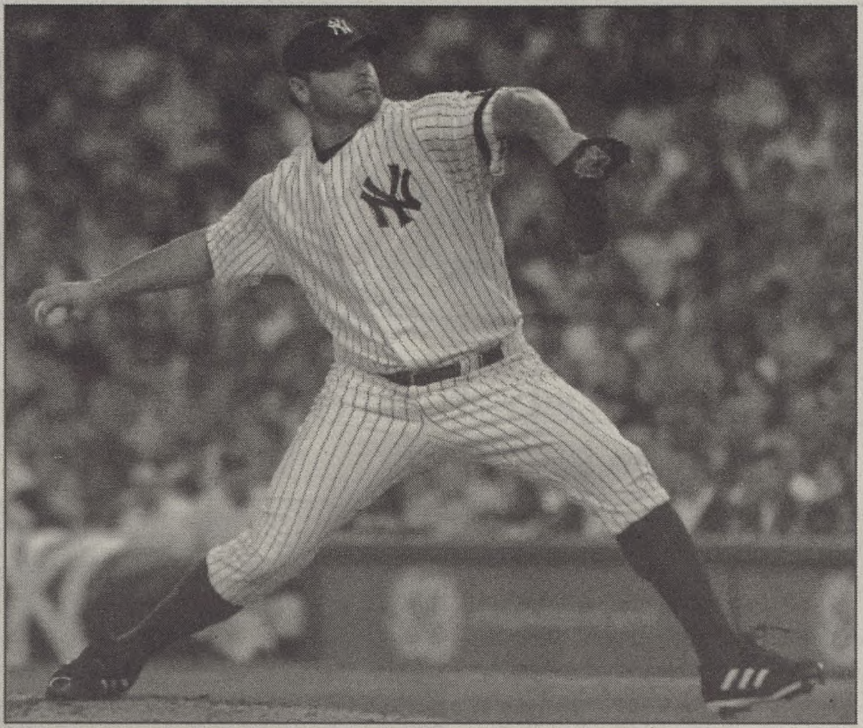
Tim Kelleher
Staff Writer

Seven Cy Young Awards, American League MVP, 11 All-Star Team Appearances, and two World Series Rings; these are the stats for possibly the best pitcher to ever play the game of baseball. A few months ago, everyone agreed Roger Clemens was a first ballot Hall-of-Famer. Unfortunately, as this past week's newsworthy controversy occurred, the big question was asked: did Clemens ever take steroids or HGH?

On February 13, Roger "The Rocket" Clemens may have been facing the toughest opponent of his life. The battle took place on Capitol Hill with his former trainer and accuser, Brian McNamee, sitting just a few feet away. Personally, I was hoping that some way or somehow Clemens' name would be cleared, but it does not seem likely anytime soon. Clemens was even quoted as stating, "I have never taken steroids or HGH. No matter what we discuss here today, I am never going to have my name restored."

Brian McNamee claims he personally injected Roger Clemens and two other players. According to McNamee, he has needles and bloody gauze pads to prove Clemens took performance-enhancing drugs. The only thing I can personally say about that is a person has to be truly sick and twisted to hold onto bloody needles and bandages for that long. If these pieces of evidence–currently being investigated by the U.S. Justice Department– bring down Roger Clemens, I only hope that McNamee goes down with him. Republican Congressman Christopher Shays of Connecticut summed up McNamee best with one sentence: "Mr. McNamee, you are a drug dealer."

McNamee responded with, "That's your opinion," and, "I just did what the players asked." I agree that McNamee only did what the players asked of him, but does that make him any different from a heroin or crack dealer? Has anyone ever heard of a crack dealer staying out of jail because he was only dealing what some crackhead on the street asked for? You are ridiculous, Brian McNamee! Throughout the hearing, you reminded me of that kid in the second grade that always said, "But he started it." I can only hope that Brian McNamee gets what he deserves - jail time.



Roger Clemens, accussed of using performance enhancing drugs fights to clear his name. Photp courtesy of ESPN.

As for Roger Clemens, I hope you are telling the truth. I never once in my life cheered for one of Roger's teams, (Yankees, Red Sox, Astros, Blue Jays), but I have always had the utmost respect for Clemens. It is hard to believe Clemens never used performance-enhancing drugs because of the evidence against him, yet for some reason I cannot help but take his side.

Is it possible that McNamee is lying? Andy Petite (a close friend and teammate of Clemens) "remembered" his and Roger's steroid talk, Chuck Knoblauch (another teammate) lied about Roger's steroid use, and a 40-plus-year-old man can still throw as hard as he did in his prime? For the sake of America's pastime, I hope these situations are all possible. I hope you are clean, Roger. It would be a shame to know that the home run king (Barry Bonds) and the greatest pitcher of all time both were on the juice.

Mudbugs crush Odessa in nine-point shutout

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

This past Friday, the Bossier/Shreveport Mudbugs took on the Odessa Jackalopes, tying yet another franchise record with their nine-goal victory. Brett Smith also tied a franchise record by scoring four goals in one game. Mudbugs goalie Ken Carroll earned a shutout, adding to the Bugs' CHL record with their 13th shutout victory this season. Carroll made 21 saves, earning him his fourth shutout of the season and league-record 25th in his CHL career.

It was a very promising start for the Bugs, who scored five goals in the first period of the game, with the first of many to come scored by Joe Ori just 4:34 into the game. Shortly after, Matt York found himself open and made the first shot of his career as a Mudbug and the first of his two shots of this game. Three minutes later, during an Odessa powerplay, Brett Smith got his first goal of the night with a swift backhand past Gorman, who seemed baffled by his slothfulness. Just seconds later, Smith got his second goal of the night, taking the Mudbugs to a 4-0 lead. With just one second remaining in the first period, York scored his second goal of the night with a smashing wrist shot around Gorman, who was dazed and confused as to what had just happened.

The second period brought on two more goals, one by Brett Smith (his third of the night) and the other by Chris Brassard. Smith's third period goal, however, was the one that made him the fifth player in Mudbugs history to score four goals in one game. Elias Godoy scored the ninth and final goal of the night for the Bugs, shutting out Odessa with just four minutes left in the last period of the game.

The Mudbugs weren't the only ones entertaining this past Friday night. It was Centenary night at the CenturyTel Center, even though there didn't seem to be any Centenary students there. Also, that night was "wear your scrubs night"–with only about four people actually wearing them. The big entertainment, however, was Marjorie Lyons Playhouse performing "The Baseball Game" from their upcoming show, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." MLP also performed the National Anthem before the start of the game. They were just as entertaining as the Bugs themselves, dancing and singing on the ice during a period break. Capping off the shutout game, MLP did a great job representing Centenary in a way that can only be described with the word "fantastic."

The Conglomerate presents: The life of a student athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

Greetings from the softball diamond—

With only three days left to recuperate from our first tournament in Texarkana, we packed our bags for Waco, Texas, for yet another challenging weekend of softball. Headed to Baylor University for its annual Getterman Classic against Syracuse, Purdue, and #7 Baylor, we had high expectations as a team.

Friday morning rolled around and we played the opening games of the tournament, facing Syracuse from the Big East and Purdue of the Big Ten. Not knowing much about either of these teams, we went into the game against Syracuse with an idea of playing "our game" and nothing else.

Our focus heading into this tournament was improving our overall approach at the plate. In our opening tournament, we seemed to struggle with aggressive at-bats and trusting our strengths at the plate. Practicing several days on hitting last week paid off. Each player went to the plate with a better understanding of what they can do to have a better at-bat. We worked on being aggressive early and swinging at close pitches—putting the ball in play.

Trying to find the momentum to win the first game of our season was what made for a much more exciting tournament. We played well in the opening game against Syracuse, putting up five hits and drawing nine walks. Sophomore Haley Bassett provided a spark at the plate, going two-for-two knocking in two runs. Sophomore Ryan Thacker (also my roommate) picked up her first win of the season, throwing six full innings and giving up just five hits while striking out three. It was an impressive outing on all counts, defensively and offensively.

Against Purdue in the second game on Friday, we again put up a solid hitting performance with seven hits against the Boilermakers, though it wasn't enough in the end as they manufactured runs on three errors. Senior outfielder Amy Wiedeman hit her first home run of the season in a 2-for-4 effort, scoring a run, and driving in three in the 8-7 loss.

We have had to overcome quite some adversity, as junior shortstop Emerald Doria has been out with an injury, along with some other minor aches and pains to other players. This adversity has made us work hard to fight through change and realize a little unluckiness early will, in the end, only make us stronger.

After Friday's games, more than half of the team iced up before heading back to the hotel to relax. We were treated with a nice dinner just before we were locked into our rooms to study for the rest of the night. An early wakeup call came on Saturday, leaving us questioning whether we would play or not. The forecast called for 100% rain and cold. Well, we woke up to see no rain, but because of the large amount of rain that came the night before, our game was backed up two hours.

Ten a.m. rolled around and we packed up and were off to Getterman Stadium to play Syracuse at 12 p.m. and Baylor later in the day at 5:30 p.m. An inning was played against the blue and orange from New York, but nothing else, as the tarp crew were off and on, off and on for an inning protecting the beautiful Baylor infield.

After several indecisive decisions, the call was made to cancel the day in hopes of protecting the field for play on Sunday. So, as usual, we packed up our bags and piled in our vans. We ate lunch and then were able to spend quality time with our parents if they were in town.

Since most of our team is from Texas, many families were able to make the trip to Baylor, including my mom and aunt, who I hadn't seen since Christmas. It was a nice treat to spend the day with each of them, as I know many of my teammates felt the same way.

A team meeting was called Saturday evening before we headed to bed for a good night's sleep as we prepared for Sunday's games against Purdue and #7 Baylor of the Big 12. Sunday morning came and we checked out of the hotel, ate breakfast, and arrived at Baylor for a beautiful day of softball.

Right: McClain's head shot. Left: McClain hitting against LA Tech. Photos courtesy of gocentenary.com

In the opening game against Purdue, not much seemed to go our way. We struggled to put up hits and put runners on base, finishing with only two hits on the game to Purdue's ten. As a team, we also made four errors that provided Purdue with many base runners, resulting in an 8-0 loss for us.

It was uncharacteristic of us to hand over runs by errors, but Purdue's foot speed challenged many of our plays, causing us to rush throws and not finish plays that are normally our strength. We had to understand that in order to succeed, we must never rush. Being quick is our specialty—so we must always remember to "be quick and not hurry."

After Purdue's game, we changed our mindsets and came into the game against Baylor (also the #7 team in the country and a 2007 World Series participant) with a better understanding of what we were there to do. With that, we were able to put up an astounding eight hits against Baylor pitching while stranding seven base runners over the course of the game. On a positive note, we each had great at-bats and were able to contribute something to the game, and in the end that will be the key to winning games in the Summit League this season.

Senior Lauren Flowers was able to break through with a great hit over right center wall for her first home run of the season, giving us two runs to Baylor's four. Sophomore Allison Shepperd went three-for-three, which included a double off of the center field wall against Baylor. Even though the game ended in another loss for us on the season, we all feel it ended pretty positive. Ryan pitched another great game for us, holding the Baylor Bears to only four runs and defensively, there were no errors committed.

Sophomores Haley Bassett and Allison Shepperd were named to Baylor's all-tournament team on their excellent performances the entire weekend. So, congrats to them—well deserved!

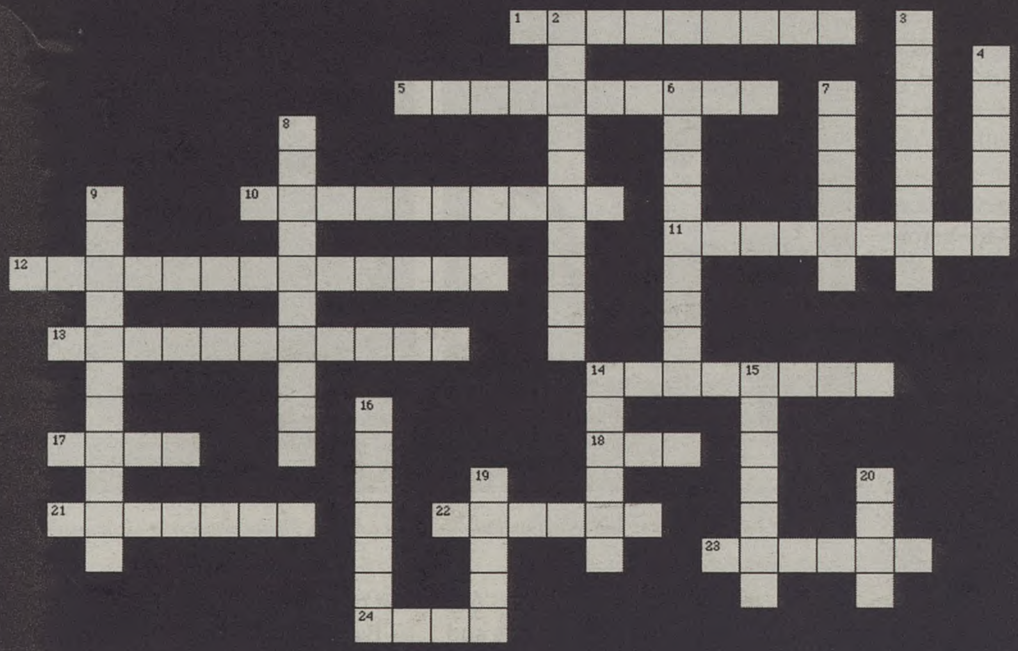
So, as our record is still not where we want it to be, at 1-9, we are working hard to build on the positives of each game. We had many exciting moments this past weekend, though at the same time, we still need to recognize that overcoming adversity early will only make us much stronger once conference starts.

We are at the University of Houston tournament playing host UH, Texas State, Kansas, Boston, and Cal State-Northridge beginning on Friday.

It's been fun. See you next week. Go Ladies!

"I come to play everyday." – David Ortiz, Boston Red Sox

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: OSCAR NOMINEES



ACROSS
1. Best Film nomination starring Keira Knightley and James McAvoy
5. "The Assassination of ________ by the Coward Robert Ford"(2 wds)
10. _______ Wilson's _____
11. Lead in "Juno"
12. Lead in "Elizabeth: The Golden Age"
13. "Pirates of the Carribean: _________ "(3 wds)
14. "American _______"
17. "The ______ Runner"
18. Tommy _____ Jones
21. "Michael _______"
22. ______ Bardem
23. "______ Rush"
24. "3:10 to _______"

DOWN
2. "Across the Universe" is a film set to 30 some odd songs by this famous band
3. "I'm Not There," a film featuring Cate Blanchett, Heath Ledger, and other various actors, focuses on this famous singer
4. "There _________ Blood" (2 wds)
6. Actor Viggo _________
7. "The _______ Ultimatum"
8. Lead in "Sweeney Todd"
9. Animated nomination about a rat that cooks
14. "The ________ Compass"
15. Phillip ______ Hoffman
16. "No _______ for Old Men"
19. _____ Linney

Horoscopes

Pisces (2/20-3/20) No matter how much you want for your future to be told, it cannot be done. No, you get to have the future smack you in the face and leave you with no self-esteem and little money like the rest of us.

Aries (3/21-4/20) Someone in one of your classes is lonely; comfort them, but watch the hands.

Taurus (4/21-5/21) I foresee dark times in your future. I'm thinking they will mostly occur at night.

Gemini (5/22- 6/21) You need to talk about things. I may be nice enough to listen but I must warn you I stop listening if you screech.

Cancer (6/22-7/23) Cynicism does all sorts of good for a person; it can even cure the common cold.

Leo (7/24-8/23) When you get lung cancer can I laugh at you? Don't worry, I'll be there with you.

Virgo (8/24-9/23) Violence isn't the answer, but it's a good excuse.

Libra (9/24) Contrary to popular belief, riding a mechanical bull is not a sober person's idea of a good time.

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) Here at Centenary we came up with a new word just for you. Virture is a new word (combination of venture and virtue!) especially for you; its definition is "risky or daring behaviour showing high moral standards."

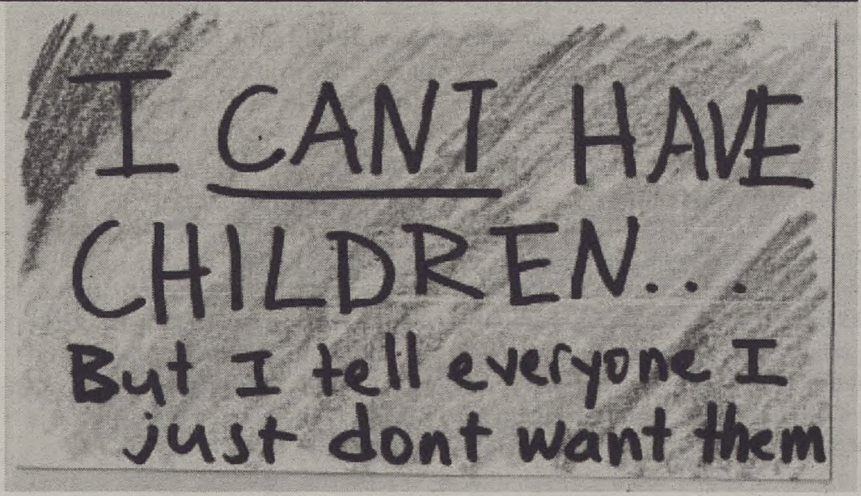
Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) The Killers will be your soundtrack this week, mind you the band not a random posse of assassins.

Capricorn (12/22-1/20) I see something very interesting about your future.... it exists.

Aquarius (1/21-2/19) You smell.

Centenary Secrets

In order to participate, take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box 786 or slip it under the Conglomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.



I CANT HAVE
CHILDREN. . .
But I tell everyone I
just dont want them

Ups and Downs

↑ **Musical Review Group**
For putting on an impressive show of Broadway tunes.

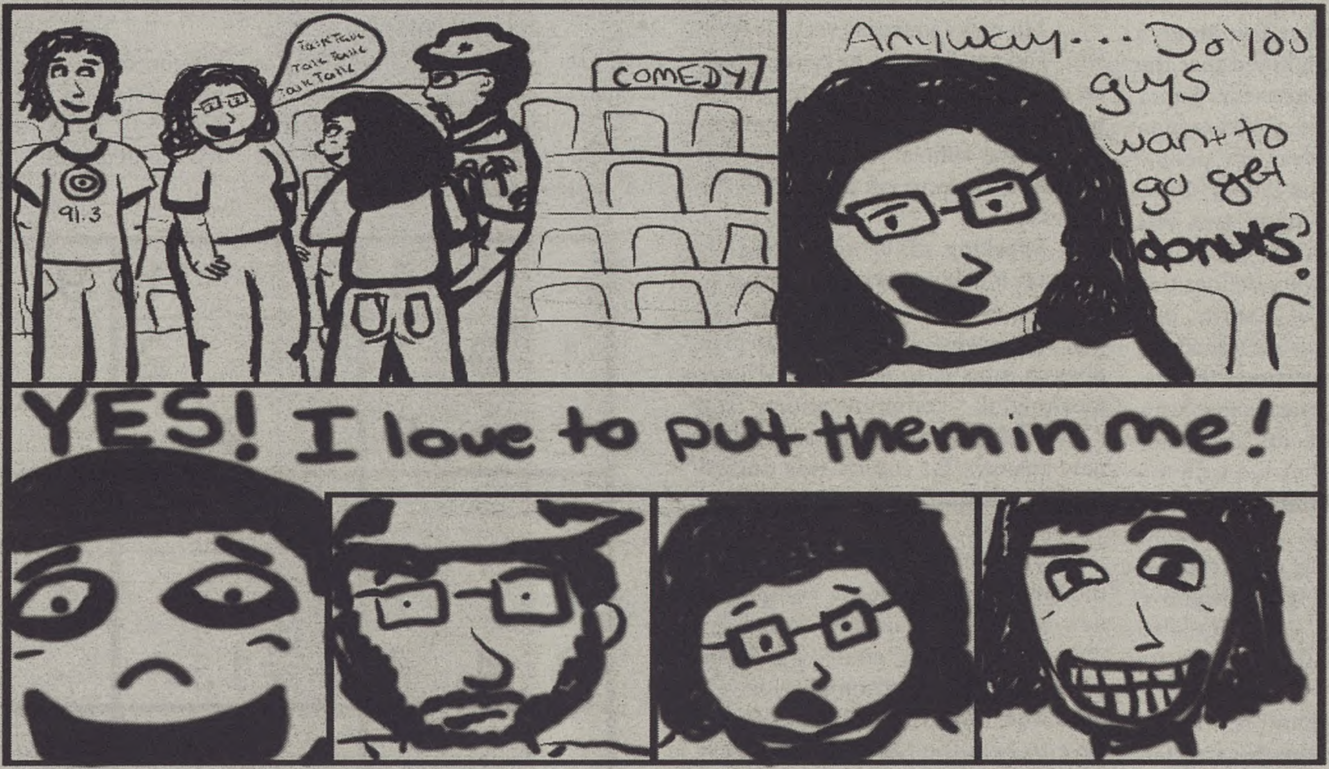
↑ **Women's Endowment Quorum**
For generously funding various organizations on campus.

↓ **Centenary Administration**
For funding mundane and misleading commercials featuring the "oft-used" rock wall.

↑ **The Conglomerate**
For successfully launching our website: theccconglomerate.com Did I stutter?

↓ **Homecoming Committee**
For spending an unnecessary amount of money on the lame kick-off party and the mechanical bull.

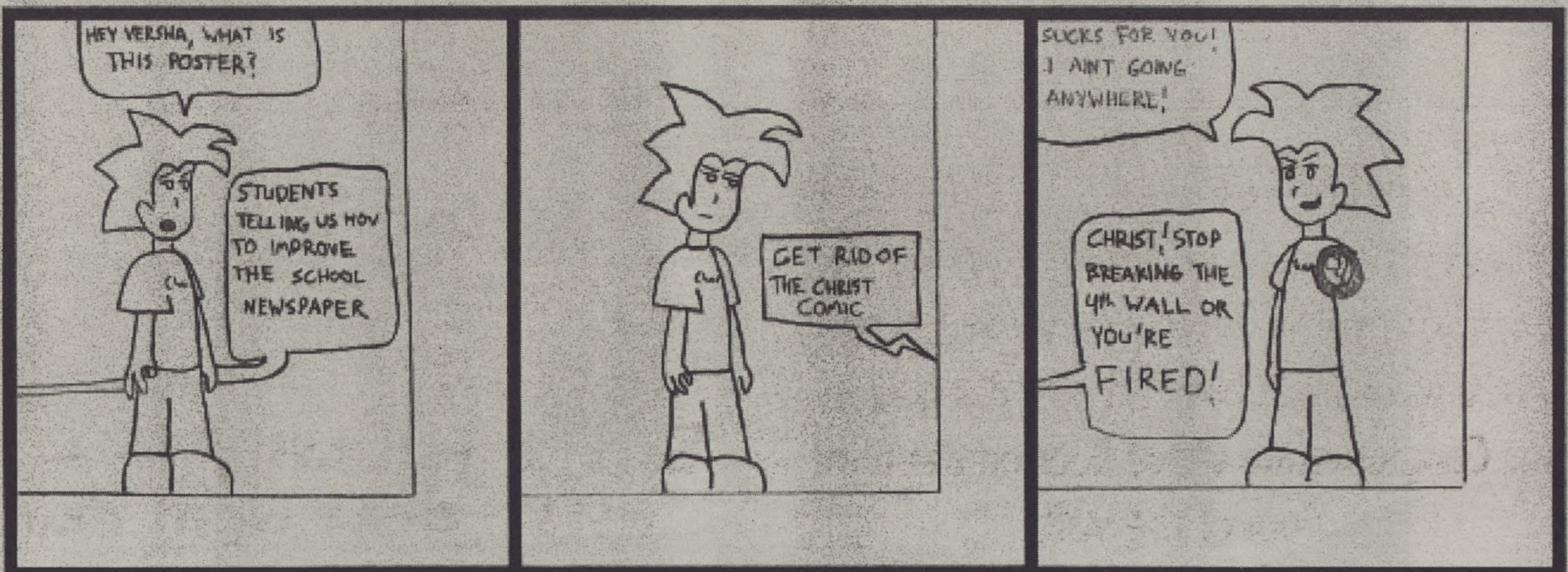
↓ **Philosophy Forum**
For misspelling virtue ("virture") and atheism ("athesism") on the posters plastered all over campus.


Talk Talk Talk Talk Talk Talk
91.3
COMEDY
Anyway... Do you guys want to go get donuts?
YES! I love to put them in me!

by Lauren Brown

A Day with Christ

by Chris Christ


HEY VERSHA, WHAT IS THIS POSTER?
STUDENTS TELLING US HOW TO IMPROVE THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER
GET RID OF THE CHRIST COMIC
SUCKS FOR YOU! I AINT GOING ANYWHERE!
CHRIST! STOP BREAKING THE 4th WALL OR YOU'RE FIRED!

Strange but true news: Sex, ministers, and the Super Bowl

Kat Michiels
Staff Writer

This week, I've worked hard to ensure that all of the news items really go together. I think I've done pretty well. After all, what could possibly be better than football, marriage, Nicaraguan children, sex, and Jesus all in one article? Quality like this is hard to find.

If you were anything like me, you were totally pissed off at Tom Brady's attitude and pretty bummed that the New York Patriots lost the Super Bowl. But, oh, to be a Nicaraguan kid that day. Every year, the people who manufacture the Super Bowl goods go ahead and make two sets of everything, one set per team. For example, waiting on the sidelines this year were two kinds of T-shirts, one proclaiming the Patriots as Super Bowl champions, one advertising the New York Giants in the exact same way. On that dreadful, dreadful February 3, I wondered what they did with the team's stuff if they didn't win. They send it to Nicaragua. That's right, everyone! The same country that has companies sending its defective toys to third world countries also sends its rejected Super Bowl shirts to Nicaragua.

What I want to know is whether or not anyone told the Nicaraguan kids that the Patriots didn't really win the Super Bowl. And while I am sure the Super Bowl people think they are being generous by donating their unwanted clothing, how about the Super Bowl takes about one-tenth of the money they make on tickets and merchandise and sends that to Nicaragua instead, huh?

If you were lonely on Valentine's Day, you could have headed down to Tijuana and gotten hitched. Over 600 couples were married in a mass ceremony. Ranging in age from 16-65, the majority of couples were immigrants either trying to get in or just leaving the United States.

No news source is very clear on why Tijuana decided to have a mass ceremony, but it has something to do with the fact that many immigrants don't have official documents that will allow them to get married in the States.

Speaking of being married, a minister is asking his congregation to have sex every day for a month. Oh yes, the newest way to combat high divorce rates is to get it on. Forget meaningful communication and a balanced relationship, sex is the new answer. Of course, this doesn't apply to the unmarried couples of the church.

This minister is pretty smart, though. He's creating a completely new retort to the normal "sexcuses" that tired wives come up with. Minister's wife: "Not tonight, I have a headache." Minister: "But honey, we have to help the Lord wage His war against divorce!"

Speaking of sex, love, and religion (they go together so well), if you were paying attention last week, then you already know that Wing Tai Retail in Singapore pulled a small line of beauty products known as "Lookin' Good for Jesus" after numerous customers complained about the products. But here's a little more about the hilarious manufacturers.

BlueQ, the company that owns the "Lookin' Good for Jesus" Line, also owns 17 other hilariously offensive brands, including "Dirty Girl" (designed to transform the dirtiest girl into a pure princess), "Miso Pretty," "Mental Case," "Get Real," "Wash Away Your Sins," "Cat Butt," "Mullet," and "Gnome" (they're not just for stealing).

"Lookin' Good for Jesus" contains products guaranteed to "get you noticed by the King of Kings," including a lip balm, a mirror, a tote bag, a sparkle cream, and a bubble bath. The lip balm boasts its ability to "return lips to near virgin quality." "Even Jesus saves" is the tagline for the coin purse, along with the promise that he'll "oogle if you're frugal."

Blue Q doesn't really care about what's going on in Singapore; they can sell online and degrade the entire world with two clicks and a credit card number.

To learn more, to support humor, or to write a polite, but firm note detailing the ways the BlueQ crew will burn in hell, please visit www.blueq.com.

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		5	4			2		

good luck
Ladies & Gents
Zeta Tau Alpha
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8

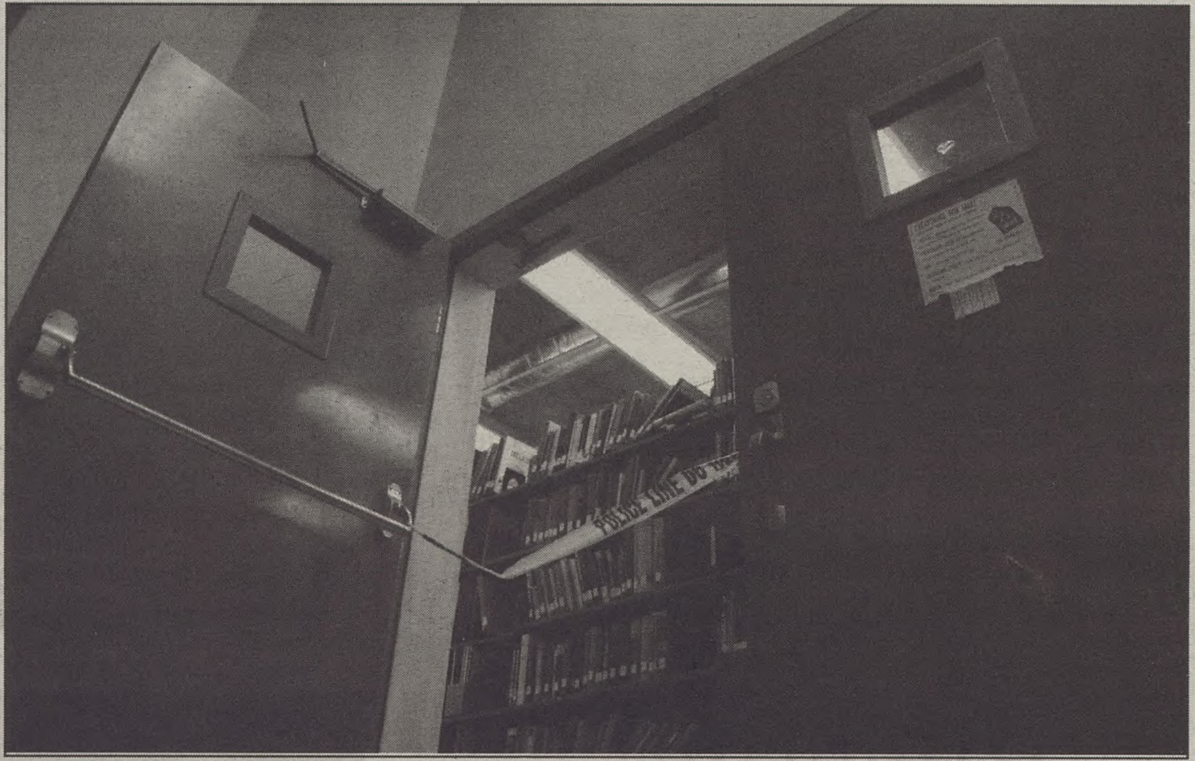
The CONGLOMERATE

February 29, 2008 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 19

Magale construction exposes hazards

Students face limited access, librarians face unstable shelves

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief



The second floor of Magale Library, under construction for damages from 2006, is currently blocked off to students. Photo by Emily DeLatin.

Magale Library holds 315,000 books. The bulk of them are on the second floor. Students received a shock Wednesday morning when they opened up Webmail to see that these books were no longer available to anyone – student or faculty – for three weeks.

There was immediate outcry about the impossibility of completing research papers and other class assignments on time without the available materials; by the afternoon, however, another global email was sent saying librarians would be able to retrieve books for patrons within 24 hours of a request.

The explanation for the precarious situation involves destabilized bookshelves, unexpected construction, and the possibility of asbestos, a mineral which was once popularly used in construction work but has since been phased out because of its causal link to some forms of cancer.

Judith Grunes, the Content and Access Officer for the library, sent out the initial email Wednesday morning which stated that books were no longer available from the second floor. For the past week, the Circulation Desk staff had been retrieving books for patrons.

"I sent the email in light of the difficulties [Wednesday] morning in getting books," Grunes said.

Provost Dr. Darrel Colson also became involved in the situation. "The librarians had concerns that the books were inaccessible," he explained. "Shelving has been moved, furniture is being moved between the shelves so that the carpet can be laid down. After a discussion with Director of Public Safety Zeke Aull, we realized we could access the books." Mr. Aull was involved not just in his capacity for DPS, but also another position he holds – that of liaison with the insurance companies, according to Colson.

When asked who will be accessing the books, Colson replied with "campus workers."

Again, in reference to the initial email, Grunes said, "my people are the ones getting the books, and I felt a need to protect them."

The protection that Grunes spoke of involves carpeting work currently being done on the second floor. This carpeting is the latest remodeling step in a long line of improvements completed over the years due to substantial rainwater damage the roof of the library has sustained. The short story is that the bookshelves are not currently stabilized, but are all out of order because of the work being done. Because they're out of order, only librarians can retrieve books. As Director of Library Services Christy Wrenn said, "it takes someone who knows the books really well" – which means Magale staff. Though the second floor is closed to students because of the danger of destabilized shelves, the agreement made between the Provost, DPS, Facilities, and Magale was that DPS and Facilities will aid in shifting furniture while librarians access the books. Many students have already expressed an unwillingness to ask library workers to go upstairs, however.

There's also the additional possibility of asbestos. Wrenn stated that the tiles on the second floor were laid down in 1962 – in the 1960s, all tiles used for this type of construction were asbestos-backed, according to

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INSIDE

"Charlie Brown"
proves he really is a
good man on page 24

KSCL's General
Manager addresses
severe financial
problems the station
faces on page 15

Student survey
asks for honest and
confidential feeback,
find out more on page
28

Just a note from the editor:

When a student brought up the survey below (read more on page 28) in one of my classes, encouraging other students to do it, the professor stated his own disbelief at a senior who had not realized in four years that no real change will happen. Skepticism might be many Centenary people's cup of tea, and often for justified reasons, but it doesn't hurt to participate in this survey - and in fact, the chance that it might help should be sufficient reason to devote 15-20 minutes of your day to it. Put down the sudoku, get online, and see what happens. Everyone involved with it says the administration is taking this seriously - so should we.

Have you done the survey?

Drawing for participants:
four **$100** gift certificates to store or restaurant of your choice

Watch for the "Student Satisfaction Inventory Invitation" email, use the personalized link to complete the confidential 20-minute survey before Friday, March 14th.

Questions? Dr. Joshua Lawrence, jlawrenc@centenary.edu

The Film Society Presents…

Rocket Science

(USA, 2007. Dir. Jeffery Blitz. in English. 101 mins.)

Hal Hefner is a loser with a speech impediment. His father has left, his brother continually harasses him, and he is doomed to wonder the halls of his high school almost friendless. Everything changes one day when the beautiful captain of the debate team takes him on as her new partner. She claims to see some great untapped hidden potential, but it is possible her motives are less than genuine. This is Spellbound documentarian Jeffery Blitz's first attempt at narrative.

"A dry, vicious and deeply moving little comedy that sort of takes the structure of a teen sports movie, then undermines that structure at every turn."
– M.E. Russell, Portland Oregonian

All screenings are Tuesdays & Thursdays in Jackson Hall, Room 304. All films begin at 7:00 pm

Question of the Week

Which professor would you like to have seen ride the mechanical bull?

"Dr. Ciocchetti."
-Jon Schleuss,
Sophomore

"Dr. Labor."
-Kelly Dunnigan,
Freshman

"Dr. Aizawa."
-Mark Moehle,
Sophomore

"Dr. Thorne."
-Meagan Moore,
Sophomore

"Dr. Chirhart."
-Raven Veillon,
Senior

"Professor Strange."
-Thomas Skrmetti,
Sophomore

FEATURES

Muslims and Christians come together this weekend in interfaith symposium

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Fact: Jesus is in the Koran. And he's not just mentioned, he's an unusual prophet compared to the others. According to the Koran and like the Bible, Jesus is born of a virgin. Muslims believe he's the messiah and that he will come at the end of history.

"There are the same titles and the same labels [for Jesus in the Koran and the Bible]," said Dr. Peter Huff, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Centenary. Unfortunately, the vast majority of the public is unaware of these similarities between the two sacred texts and the two religions. Dr. Huff, with the help of the Christian Leadership Center and the community, hopes to educate and correct some misguided notions this weekend.

The CLC is hosting an Interfaith Symposium that began Thursday night and continues through Saturday afternoon (for a full list of events, see the end of the article). Dr. Huff, the lead speaker of the symposium on Thursday night, is well-versed in Islam, as he teaches courses on the religion here and has had connections with the Muslim community in Shreveport since first coming to Centenary in August 2001.

After 9/11, Dr. Huff and Ms. Eaves partnered together to have a forum on Islam "in an effort to educate people," said Eaves. "It went very well – Kilpatrick was packed, it was standing room only."

"It immediately put me in touch with the Muslim community here," said Dr. Huff. "They were interested in coming [to Centenary] and reaching out at a very vulnerable moment for them. It cemented our relationship, which has been fruitful since then – they see Centenary as a place where they can be heard and speak without fear of any kind of opposition."

Though it's been years since 9/11, the issue of Islam and Christianity is very much a hot topic today, and this weekend's symposium is hoping to repeat that 2001 success. "9/11 did unfortunately reinforce stereotypes of Muslims as violent, dangerous, and inscrutable," said Dr. Huff. "But strangely enough, especially among the young, it created a sympathy for Islam."

That sympathy can go a long way toward mitigating media portrayal of Muslim stereotypes, which isn't anything new – according to Dr. Huff, such negativity goes all the way back to famous Italian poet Dante Alighieri in the 1300s. Dante's famous work, The Divine Comedy, features a trip into hell, where he actually names people, including the prophet Mohammed. Since then, literature has often portrayed Muslims as untrustworthy, and Dr. Huff points out that much of early 20th-century film shows Muslims as sinister characters.

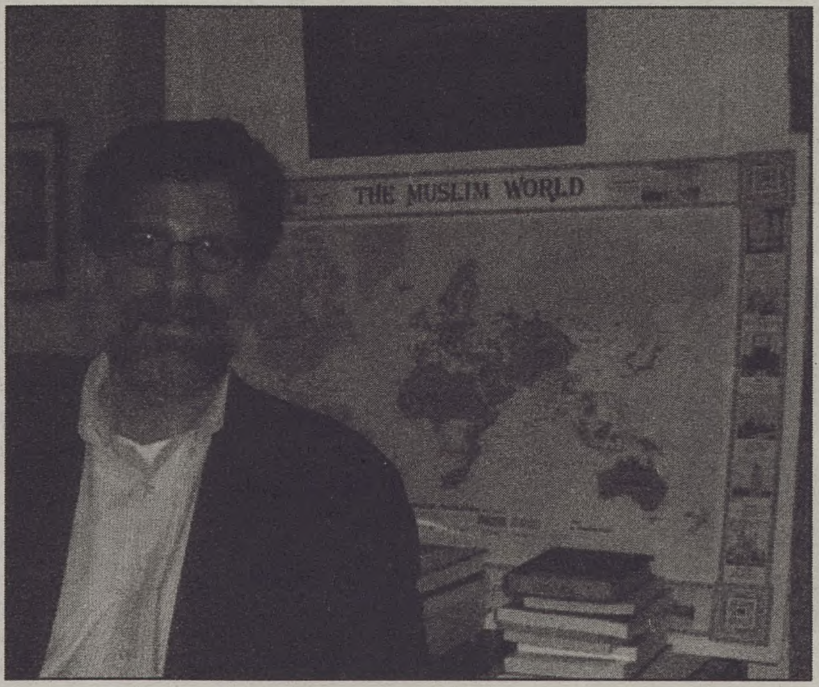
Dr. Huff's presentation Thursday night focused on the past, present, and future of Muslim-Christian relations. He made the claim that in the Middle Ages, "despite the Crusades, Muslim-Christian relations were pretty good, and the Jews together with them – they were surprisingly seen as little paradises, but that didn't last long."

Huff also believes that Islam and Christianity are so competitive today in part "because they have so much in common – that fuels the competition, that is part of the legacy."

"There's a lot of work to be done, but the very things that create competition can create cooperation," he said.

In addition to sharing the story of Jesus, the Bible and the Koran feature many of the same characters and stories, like Abraham.

cont. on page 4



Pictured: Dr. Peter Huff in his office.
Photo by Versha Sharma.

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Riggs Memorial Plaza and Leadership Fountain dedicated during Morning Call

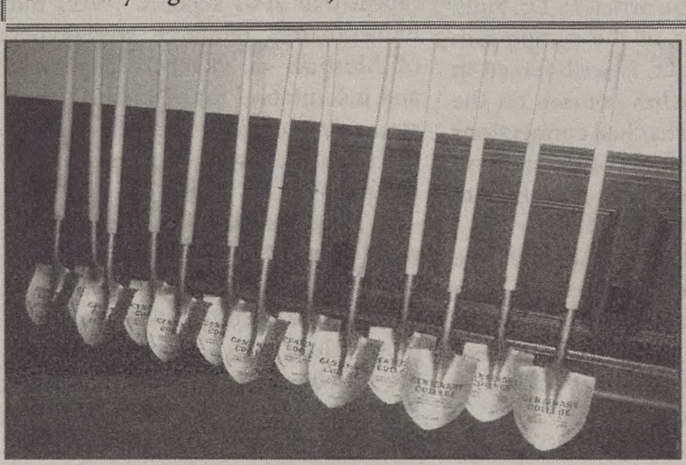
Amanda Russell
Staff Writer

If you have walked from north campus to the library lately, you've probably noticed a large display of the proposed plans for the Riggs Memorial Plaza and Leadership Fountain. During the President's Morning Call last Thursday, a groundbreaking ceremony was held in the Whited Room for this new project.

The Riggs Memorial Plaza and Leadership Fountain are the culmination of a campus beautification project that began in 2001. The leadership class of the Frost School of Business is responsible for developing significant projects to make improvements on campus. In 2001, the leadership class conceived the idea of installing a leadership fountain. This leadership class, led by alumni Jane James and Brittany Anderson, was able to raise more than $40,000 for the project. In 2003 the newest Frost leadership class combined efforts with the Leadership Fountain group to develop permanent student scholarships as a part of the "Paving the Way Campaign." Students and Centenary community members will be able to purchase pavers to celebrate significant student achievements, which will help fund the scholarships. These pavers will be a part of the plaza, which will be located in the quad.

When Leonard Riggs ('64) heard about the project, he knew that he needed to be involved. Riggs has a special connection to Centenary College: his grandfather was a part of Centenary's Jackson, Mississippi campus and was influential in Centenary's move to Shreveport. Riggs' father was responsible for developing the campus planning and landscaping for the current Shreveport campus. Riggs now serves as a trustee for the college. He decided to designate part of his parents' estate to the landscaping plans for the quad between Mickle and Hamilton, and the plaza and Leadership Fountain will bear the Riggs family name.

The project was developed by Slack Alost Architecture. The Morning Call groundbreaking shovel-bearers included Mike Alost (Slack Alost Architecture), Brittany Anderson (2001 Leadership Class), William G. Anderson (Board of Trustees chairman), Hoyt Bain (Alumni President), Jane James (2001 Leadership Class), Parker Jarnigan (VPIA of SGA), Harry McInnis (McInnis Construction), and President Schwab.



Pictured above: The shovel-bearers turn over sand at the ceremony. Photo courtesy of centenary.edu. Left: the ceremonial shovels, photo by Amanda Russell.

Muslims and Christians come together at Centenary, cont. from page 3

One difference is that Muslims believe Mohammed is the last prophet, the special prophet – but regarding Mohammed and Jesus's status as humans, "there's not much difference," according to Huff. "Jesus was known as the miracle worker. Mohammed's miracle was bringing forth the Koran."

Chaplain Betsy Eaves said this fulfills part of the mission statement of the CLC, aimed at "bridge-building and interfaith activities."

"We want people to have a better understanding of the foundations of both faiths," she said.

Dr. Osvaldo Vena, an Associate Professor of the New Testament at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois (the Chicago area) who is performing a peace concert on Friday night, actually taught Ms. Eaves when she attended the seminary.

"His project is fascinating," she said. "He discovered an out-of-print book written by Arab and Jewish children in the '70s – poetry [that expressed] longing for peace." Dr. Vena's concert, which will feature Centenary student musicians and community members, sets that poetry to music to demonstrate that a desire for peace still continues to this day. "The cry for peace has been going on for a long time," said Eaves. Part of the proceeds from Vena's CD sales goes to education for children in the Middle East.

Saturday will feature several workshops conducted by various people. Centenary graduate Kiley Pulliam and local Imam Bilal El-Amin will speak on "Why I Became Muslim" while Sarah Zitterman and Centenary English Professor Jennifer Strange will discuss "Women in Christianity and Islam." An interfaith panel discussion will take place after that, featuring two Muslim and two Christian leaders speaking on how we can improve relations between the two religions. Lunch will then be provided at noon by the women of Masjid Al-Noor, one of the three mosques in Shreveport and Bossier City.

"We're ending with a lunch, but I want people to leave hungry," said Dr. Huff. "Hungry for more. I want them to buy a Koran, to read up on Islam, and I want to get Muslims to know American Christianity, to know the real difference between Baptists and Pentecostals. Everyone has to do their homework. It works both ways."

Area students can get into any event for free. Non-students are asked to pay $10 per day or $25 for all three days, and everyone is asked to pay $5 for Saturday lunch. Payments can be made on site.

Schedule of Events:

Friday, February 29
7:30-9:00 pm
Dr. Osvaldo Vena, peace concert

Saturday, March 1
8:30 am-1:00 pm
small group discussions on "Why I Became Muslim," "Women in Christianity and Islam," and an interfaith panel discussion
lunch provided by the women of Masjid Al-Noor mosque

Magale-gate?

Current situation raises questions about administration

continued from front page

several Centenary staff members and websites on contracting and asbestos history. However, the problem (or lack of one) is unconfirmed both ways; no one knows for certain whether asbestos is present or absent because no official testing has been conducted. The Environmental Protection Agency issued the Asbestos Ban and Phase Out Rule in 1989, but in recent years for Magale, no one has checked the tiles. Wrenn also said that there is no asbestos problem, but when Political Science Professor Dr. Rodney Grunes inquired as to why the carpeting was not delayed until summer 2008, Wrenn replied, "if we waited until the summer, that would make a worse asbestos problem."

Many students have expressed dismay at the carpeting taking place now. Wrenn said "DPS said it's time to do these repairs and we said okay." Because Aull is in charge of insurance, he spearheaded the project. Grunes stated that none of the library staff knew Talley Alley (the carpet-laying company) was coming to start work until February 20. "Nobody in the library was consulted," she said, concerning the dates for work.

"It's taken us a long while," said Provost Colson. As for the timing, he said "it's a matter of trying as hard as possible to get [the library] fixed, of getting the insurance company" on board. "When students come back from spring break, [the second floor] is going to look gorgeous."

The full story actually begins years ago, after Hurricane Rita struck in late 2005 and after a strong thunderstorm in January 2006 badly damaged the roof of the library. Director of Library Services Christy Wrenn said, "after Rita, storms ripped the copper off the top of the belltower, water was running and leaking in different places, down across 5,000 books." According to Wrenn, there was trouble finding a willing roofer to fix the leaks. "We had to go to Texas for a roofer because it's very dangerous to work on a tile roof," she said.

Though they did finally find a company, the problems continued. "The first roofing company couldn't find all the leaks," said Wrenn, "and then a second roofing company said they'd fix it, they even bragged about it. They pulled all the tiles off the back roof of the library and left it one weekend – it rained, and the black tar paper beneath [the absent tiles] is from 1962. The water went straight through. Over 300 boxes of periodicals and serious journals stored in the attic were destroyed."

"We were just sick," said Wrenn, referring to the rest of the library staff as well. "Those had been stored [in the attic] for a very long time because there was no space on the shelves. This roofing company was very negligent at that time." Wrenn said that the library is still involved in litigation to receive money for those damages.

Aside from the journals in the attic, the water from that storm also "came straight on through the books" on the second floor, causing the library staff to put Visquine (plastic) on the books. "Every time it rained, there was more water, and we were waiting for the roof company," said Wrenn. "We changed the Visquine when they smelled like mold, because mildew has the potential to destroy the whole library. The sitting rainwater also took all the color and shine off the floor, making it uglier than it already is. Those tiles are from 1962."

Finally, in summer 2007, a roofer fixed the roof, stopped the leaks and plugged up all patches. ("Then the elevator went out," said Wrenn, but that's another can of worms.)

"We have just been through so much with the second floor, headaches and stress," Wrenn said. "When we had change, we were so happy to get it fixed. It's been in a mess for almost two solid years." She also stated that money has been "trickling in" for these various necessary renovations because of litigation with insurance companies, though Magale has been "constantly and slowly remodeling since 2005, with funds from the Muses, the Women's Endowment Quorum and library budget leftovers." When asked what delayed the process, Wrenn pointed to litigation. "We renovated the study rooms last summer. We were ready for remodeling to come."

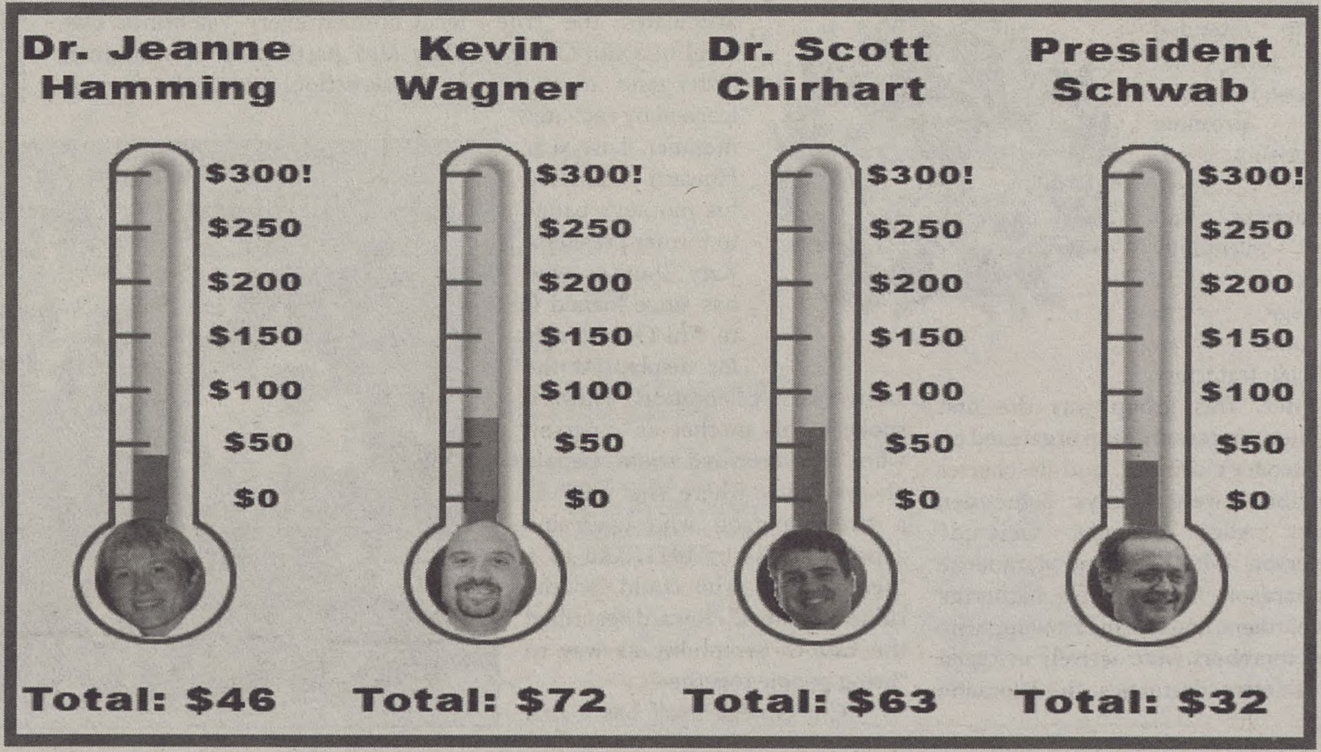
"It's an odd thing, libraries aren't always dealt with like this," she said. "But it's hard to go to an attorney or insurance company and say we want this [damaged book or journal] back. What was damaged was almost invaluable." Still, according to the Director, some price tag could be calculated, as she stated that the rain had damaged $7,600 worth of books.

"There's no problem of asbestos at all, because, if there were, [the workers] would be wearing masks," said Wrenn. As for loose tiles revealing asbestos, she said they're "sealing them all off."

The carpenters are using a technique of air lifters, whereby a machine lifts a whole stack at once. One stack weighs the same as two cars, according to Wrenn. Pine boards previously stabilized the shelves, but these had to be taken off "to move the shelves, so they're no longer stabilized," said Wrenn. She then gave an itemized list about why the second floor is currently closed to students: "One, the workmen are there, two, the shelves are unstable, three, we don't want anyone asking the workmen questions or bothering them, and four, we want this to go forth as rapidly as possible."

Though the instability of the bookshelves appears to be a sufficient reason for keeping students out, when asked if it's dangerous for librarians to go up and retrieve books, Wrenn replied in the negative.

Mr. Aull went home for the day before he could be interviewed, but this story will be updated as soon as possible with his statements. Check www.thecccconglomerate.com.



Centenary chapter of Chi Omega celebrates its 80th anniversary

Happy 80
Iota·gamma
Welcome Back, Alumni!

Amanda Russell
Staff Writer

On October 11, 1922, when Centenary's female population was 554 and there were only 41 faculty members, a group of six women calling themselves "Phi Omega" formed on Centenary's campus. The group intended to form an organization to promote friendship, to better serve Centenary, and to eventually petition Chi Omega to become an official fraternity chapter. This group was the first women's fraternal group organized on Centenary's campus, and its charter members were Gladys Schroeder, Mary Alice Bauman, Gertrude Alverson, Oltice Jordan, Marguerite Richardson, Mai Connell, Catherine Richardson, and Norma Dowling. The first members were actively involved in athletics, dramatics, the Women's Council, and the choral club. On February 4, 1928, Phi Omega's goal was finally attained when it became the Iota Gamma chapter of the Chi Omega Fraternity.

To commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Iota Gamma, local members and alumni planned an anniversary celebration at the Silver Lake Ballroom in downtown Shreveport on February 22. In addition to reconnecting with alumni who flew in from across the country to be a part of the historic celebration, the women of the chapter and alumni were fortunate to welcome John Howard as the keynote speaker for the evening. Howard is the son of Ethel Switzer-Howard, the writer of the Chi Omega Symphony (1904). The symphony articulates the true ideal of a Chi Omega Sister and must be learned by each new member. Last year Howard donated his mother's badge to former president Katy Thomas, who has since loaned it to Chi O nationals for display. At the anniversary celebration, Howard spoke of his mother as a person who "in a crowded room, people always knew where she was," as a strong person who overcame a polio illness in 1911, and as a "peacemaker" who could "soothe ruffled feathers." Howard described the Chi O Symphony as way to "bring people together."

Chi Omega itself has a rich history dating back to its founding at the University of Arkansas on April 5, 1895. By 1904, Chi Omega extended through Texas, Nebraska, and California, and as far north as Virginia and Washington, D.C. The fraternity realized the need to enter the Northeast, and over the next few years founded chapters in Pennsylvania, Maine, and New York City. Over the last century, Chi Omega has grown into an organization with over 300,000 initiates from 173 active collegiate chapters. According to Chi Omega national archivist Lyn Harris, "Chi Omega is the largest NPC group in terms of number of initiated women."

Like other Chi Omega chapters across the country, the women of Iota Gamma strive to meet the standards of the Fraternity's six purposes: scholarship, campus activities, community service, career and personal development, sisterhood/high standards of personnel, and friendship/social. The Iota Gamma chapter is committed to community service on Centenary's campus and in the community. In the last year alone, Iota Gamma raised $8,000 in its fifth annual silent auction to benefit Make-a-Wish Foundation. Chi Omegas also volunteer at Shreveport's soup kitchen, Providence House, Blitz Build, and the Glen Retirement Community and Nursing Home. Chi Omegas bake cookies and make cards for nursing home patients and local firemen every Valentine's Day. They also participate as volunteers at local school carnivals through Duvall's Amusements. Iota Gamma is currently planning regular service operations with the Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission and a local animal shelter.

The women of Iota Gamma thrive in scholarship as well, with 40 members making the Dean's List in Fall '06 and 37 making the Dean's List in Spring '07. Iota Gamma also holds the highest average cumulative GPA of all organizations on Centenary's campus (both Greek and non-Greek). Iota Gamma's members are very active throughout the campus as members and officers of many organizations such as SGA, CAB, the Christian Leadership Center, Chor, RHA, Musical Theater Group, the Drama Department, Resident Assistants, AED, and Up 'Til Dawn.

Former Iota Gamma president Natalie Daniels calls her time as president "an honor" and is proud to be a part of a group that has "consistently done amazing things for our campus, community, and each other." Similarly, current Chi O president Caitlin Hogan describes her position as a "great privilege." She says "it is such a joy to give back to an organization that has given so much." Hogan is constantly amazed with Iota Gamma and all of the wonderful things they are involved in and continue to achieve. For information on Chi Omega, visit www.chiomega.com.

Above left: Lori von Pingel and Laura Deas (in the owl suit) in front of the Chi O House. Below: The seniors at the Homecoming parade. Photos provided by Amanda Russell.

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Accreditation review prompts changes to Centenary Plan, includes campus visit next week

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Centenary is up for accreditation this year, as a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) – so if you're stopped by one of nine well-dressed people next week asking questions about academia on campus, fret not.

That isn't extremely likely to happen, as Associate Provost and Professor of Economics Dr. David Hoaas explains. "There are students set up to be a part of the interview process," he said, "but they could ask random students some questions." Dr. Hoaas is the accreditation liaison for Centenary.

Accreditation must happen in order for a school to keep receiving federal funds as directed by the Department of Education. This happens once every ten years for a college, and Centenary's time for review has come up again. In September, the College filed a compliance certification self-study, essentially explaining "how we believe we're meeting their standards," said Dr. Hoaas. These standards include having faculty with the appropriate credentials, faculty evaluations, and processes to make curricular change.

A team at the SACS headquarters near Atlanta, Georgia reviewed that study in November, and in January, Centenary filed a more focused report with more information and documentation. Still, "the federal government says that there are some aspects which cannot be called 'in compliance' from afar," as Hoaas put it, so next week, a group of nine individuals will be on campus to examine Centenary in person.

The group arrives Monday and will be here through Thursday. The review team will submit their report to the Commission on Colleges, and the entire SACS review process will be completed by December 2008. "The important thing to realize is that this is a peer evaluation process," said Dr. Hoaas. "This isn't some government agency, this is a peer review to help us do a better job of what we're doing." For example, President Schwab, Provost Colson, and Dr. Hoaas himself have spent time being SACS reviewers for other schools.

Centenary students will be pleased to know that part of the accreditation process has jumpstarted the Quality Enhancement Plan, as part of the "forward-looking" improvement for the college. The QEP is "a refreshment of the Centenary plan," said Dr. Hoaas. The proposal includes expanding the career aspect of the plan beyond the required class and allowing students to get credit for that component via internships or directed research. It will be the "students' choice," he said, to choose from "alternative things on the palate."

As for service-learning (now being called community), there will be the same options, but also ones tied to classes. Dr. Hoaas gave the example of a Sociology class in which a student assists an organization – that would count as credit. Finally, for intercultural credit (which has "been getting a lot of praise and is working well" even currently), students who go abroad for a semester will be able to have that count as module. Dr. Hoaas said the QEP selection committee also wants to rename the Centenary Plan to demonstrate more clearly that "this is about student learning," but they have yet to come up with a suitable name. Faculty voted to accept the QEP at the December board meeting.

Skeeter the Catahoula mascot named "success story of the week"

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

Centenary's official mascot, Skeeter, was named on February 22 as the "Success Story of the Week" for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), which is featured in its weekly Electronic News Alert. According to Centenary News Services' press release, the decision seemed easy.

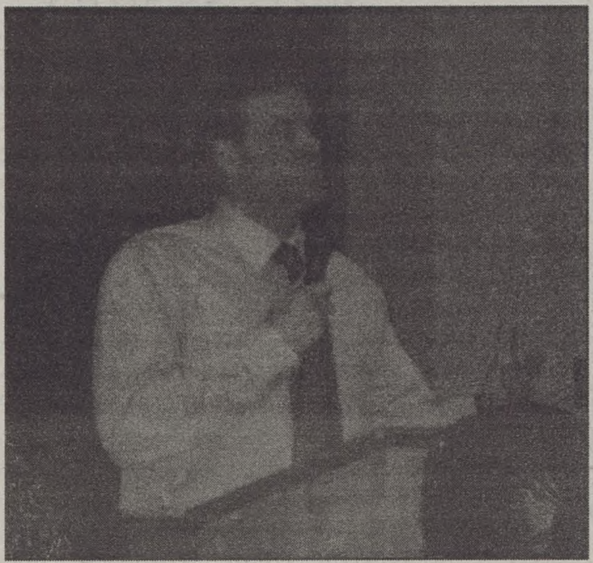
Said Michele Farbman, ASPCA Assistant Editor, "I thought this was a really cool story when it was forwarded to me. Skeeter really deserves the love and fame he is receiving."

Skeeter was found, after a search of the Shreveport area for a dog of his breed, in a Houston, TX, animal shelter. Rick DelaHaya, Director of Marketing and Communications at Centenary, told the ASPCA that he took an overnight trip to see the dog, and also noted, "I was hooked the moment I saw him." Skeeter currently lives at home with DelaHaya's family.

Farbman pointed out the reason for the importance of this news. According to the press release, "the Electronic News Alert is sent to at least 550,000 people across the country and around the world,"—which certainly means good press for Centenary.

PHILOSOPHY FORUM 2008

Ethics in a godless universe? Erik Wielenberg argues for the existence of objective morality



Pictured: Wielenberg speaks to a packed auditorium on Monday night. Photo by Mindy McKoin.

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

What is life like if God doesn't exist? Is life meaningless? Is there no morality? Erik Wielenberg, Associate Professor of Philosophy at DePauw University, answered these questions on February 25th to a full room in Kilpatrick Auditorium. In his book "Value and Virtue in a Godless Universe," Wielenberg argues that the question of the existence of God and the existence of objective morality are independent of each other, and one negative answer does not imply the same for the other.

The view that God exists and has absolute control over ethical truth is referred to as unmitigated power. This view supports a thesis Wielenberg calls "Anything Goes": If God does not exist, then nothing is good or evil, and no actions are morally wrong or obligatory.

Wielenberg claimed that God does not make a good foundation or source of morality because this assumption leads to a distorted morality. Here he posited a "thought experiment." He told the audience to imagine a contest in which the prize was omnipotence. One competitor was good, and the other was evil. Say the evil competitor won, and became all-powerful. This would seem awful, but it needn't be. The evil one could then redefine morality to say slaughtering is good and enslaving is moral. Thus the nature of the right ending of the contest has been redefined, as "might makes right"-- any being powerful enough can mold morality as they see fit.

Wielenberg described a problem many theists encounter when they try to explain the existence of evil. Many propose that evil is an unfortunate side effect of a "greater good," such as free will. Wielenberg added a twist of his own. He noted that, if God controls morality, then he could have made something easier the greatest good. We could be rocks floating in space and God could make that the best possible outcome. The second major view that Wielenberg addressed involved "The Who Cares" Thesis: If God does not exist, then there is no reason to care about which actions are morally wrong or obligatory. He counters this claim by asserting that this view creates a distortion because it implies that there are only reasons of self-interest to do something or refrain from doing something.

Here Wielenberg asked the audience to envision another scenario. He asked them to imagine that on their way to the talk, they passed by a person who was on fire. This person suffering from the flames is also next to a filled bucket of water. He added that there is no one in sight, no media around, and the person is not wealthy, so there couldn't be any reward for saving them.

Wielenberg pointed out that not caring about the consequences of our actions if it is not in our self-interest is indicative of a mental disorder—that everyone in the audience should save the person because it is the moral thing to do. He mentioned the following quote by Immanuel Kant: "Morality must not lower herself. Her own nature must be her recommendation. All else, even divine reward, is as nothing beside her." We should do the right thing because it's the right thing to do.

At this point in the discussion Wielenberg presented his alternative view of an ethics without foundation. He put forth two claims: not all truths are made true by something else (brute facts) and not everything is justified by something else (brute reasons).

For example, objective morality is a brute fact because it is intrinsically valued; it has no foundation other than itself.

When the lecture was opened to questions, Wielenberg was asked if he was an atheist or an agnostic. He replied, "It depends on my mood... probably a doubtful agnostic."

One member of the audience asked the speaker, "This is the second time Centenary College has brought in an atheist to speak...why is a Christian college getting an atheist to spread the word?"

Two students seated nearby in the audience immediately responded, "This is a liberal arts college, it is supposed to challenge beliefs regardless of your personal opinions...these are educational events that the students enjoy." The second part of the "Values and Virtues Forum" will be held March 3rd, at 7 pm in Kilpatrick Auditorium, where Centenary students and community members will respond to Wielenberg's lecture.

Centenary's 17th Annual Student Research Forum

The end of the spring semester is within sight, and we wanted to remind you of our 17th Annual Student Research Forum. We take great pride in our students' research here at Centenary, and we look forward to the time that we have set aside for them to present that research to the whole College community. The presentations of the 17th Annual Forum are scheduled for Friday, April 25th, 2008, which is a little less than 3 months from now.

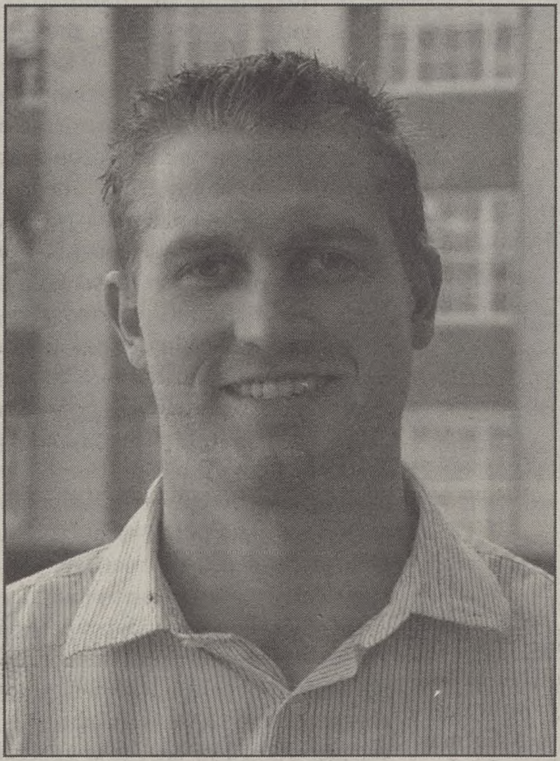
Awards and cash prizes will be given to the winners of the oral presentations and the poster presentations. We will provide more details later, but we hope that all of you will participate in this upcoming forum. We hope that student-researchers will share their work with the rest of us, and we hope as well that their colleagues and classmates will join the faculty in celebrating that work.

We wish all of you students well on your research and on your posters or oral presentations.

If you have any questions about this upcoming 17th annual research forum, please contact the director, Matt Weeks, whose email address is: rmweeks@centenary.edu, or office phone: 841-7268.

Centenary students respond to Wielenberg's thoughts

Editor's note: Dr. Erik Wielenberg (DePauw) started a lively debate on the first night of the Forum. He argued that, in a universe without God, we still have moral obligations and reason to care about those obligations. Rather than think that "Anything Goes" in a Godless universe, we should do the right thing because it's the right thing. Is he right? Our conversation continues as we hear the responses of two students and two community members. Join us on Monday, March 3, at 7 p.m. in Kilpatrick Auditorium on the corner of Kings Highway and Woodlawn. Free and open to the public. For more information, visit our website at http://www.centenary.edu/forum/ or call Dr. Chris Ciocchetti at 318-869-5246.



Jason Blilie
Senior
Philosophy Major
Baseball Player
Hometown: Keller, TX

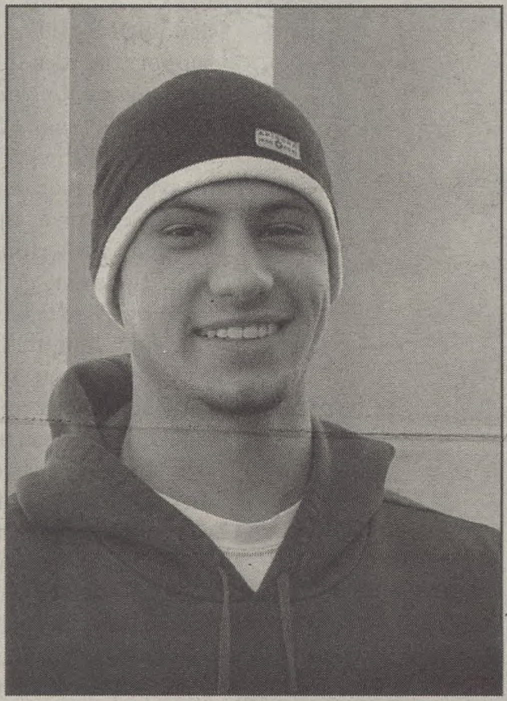
Dr. Wielenberg's talk this past Monday got me thinking. He presented a point of view that is not easily presented in a palatable fashion. Though he described himself as an atheist or an agonistic, I wondered how much of his argument could be accepted by a theist.

Dr. Wielenberg made the claim that fundamental principles of morality exist independent of the existence of God, but does accepting this mean that God does not exist? I doubt it. Religions that view God as having unmitigated power are threatened by this claim; however, a theist could still maintain his belief in a God while accepting the intrinsic value of morality independent from God. This merely implies that omnipotence does not include having the ability to completely change fundamental moral truths.

To illustrate this point, consider the example of Abraham's test of faith. The Christian God told Abraham to kill his son Isaac as a sacrifice. A supporter of unmitigated divine power would have to say that Abraham killing his son is morally permissible. If, as this theory claims, God's will constitutes moral correctness, there would be nothing wrong with Abraham killing Isaac. To me, this seems wrong. Intuitively, many would say that God would not actually force Abraham to kill his son. We have a hard time rejecting certain moral truths, e.g., that killing an innocent boy is wrong, even if God commands it. This and other examples lead us to believe that omnipotence must operate within the bounds of morality. God cannot change such fundamental truths to satisfy his will.

A God could still be omnipotent within the bounds of morality. This type of God would act in accordance with these moral truths due to his perfect nature. This also incorporates people who subscribe to other reasonable theories that differ from Christianity and other mainstream religions or even no religion at all. They too can recognize our moral obligations. It seems to me that it is fundamentally wrong to assume those people who do not believe in a specific God do not have moral value in their life.

I look forward to the upcoming discussion. I am eager to learn more about the opinions of my fellow respondents and all of those who attend the second part of this forum.



Travis Hill
Junior
Religious Studies and Communications
Basketball Player
Hometown: Bedford, TX

This past Monday night I had the privilege of attending the Values and Virtue in a Godless Universe Forum hosted by Centenary College. The speaker, Dr. Erik Wielenberg, presented a very compelling argument on how a moral code could still exist without the existence of God. While his presentation was very intriguing, as a Christian, his argument left me unconvinced. One point he made in his presentation was that if God had control over a moral code, then He could achieve good without the necessity of evil; this point led me to create the following response to his argument.

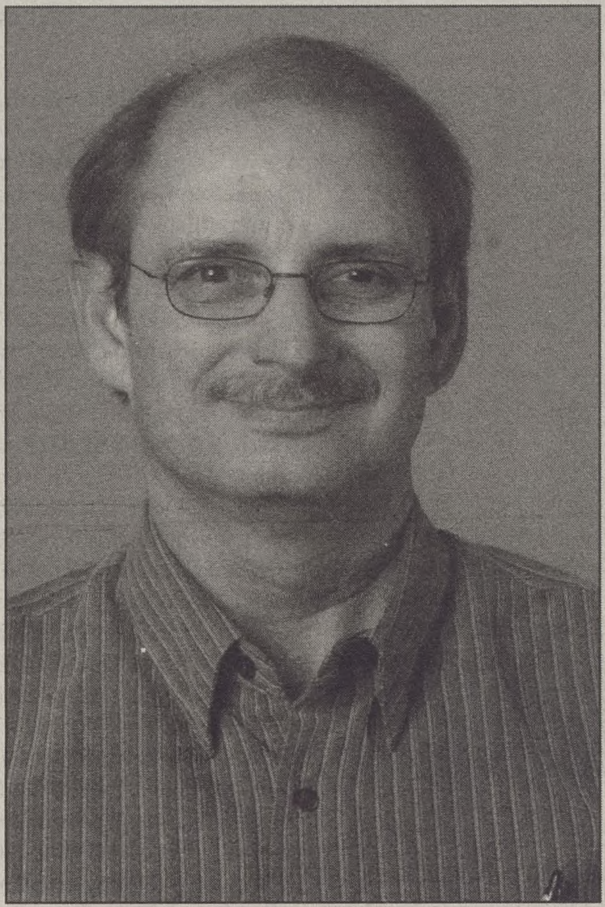
While I was growing up, my parents, like any other parents, would occasionally punish me for being disobedient to their wishes. I often viewed the punishments as unfair or a "bad thing," because I did not fully understand their purpose. But, because I viewed my parents' punishments as bad, does that make them bad? Of course not. Also, I like to think of my parents as good people, but, in those moments where they would punish me, I didn't like it. Does that make them "bad" or "evil" people? Not at all. My parents did not see their methods of punishment as evil, but rather necessary to achieve their ultimate goal: my growth into the best person I could be.

In the same way, God uses different forms of punishment to discipline his human creation. Humans often see this punishment as evil, or the allowance of evil by God, because we do not fully understand God's purpose for the punishment. While humans often see God's punishment as evil, God views it as necessary to achieve His ultimate goal, which is total dependence on God for all things. Therefore, God allows us to experience "evil" so we can learn to fully depend on Him, thus experiencing the ultimate goodness found only in God Himself.

From a parent's point of view, it would be foolish for their child to argue against the use of punishment in favor of a different type of system, because the wisdom of the parent surpasses that of the child. Likewise, the parent is not concerned with the child's complete understanding of the implication of the punishment; instead, they are more concerned with achieving their ultimate goal, as stated earlier. In the same way, it should be considered foolish for humans to question the methods God uses to achieve his ultimate goal, because God's wisdom surpasses that of humans. Also like a parent, God is less concerned with humans' understanding of His ways (although I believe He offers insight where humans can gain an understanding), and more concerned with his ultimate goal - drawing all humans to a full dependant relationship with Him.

PHILOSOPHY FORUM CONT'D.

Community members respond concerning God, values, and virtues



David Burroughs
Community Member

The atheist philosopher Mr. Bertrand Russell was once asked by a woman what he might say to God if he should encounter Him at the Pearly Gates. His response was, "God, you gave us insufficient evidence." Contrary to the conclusion stated by Dr. Erik Wielenberg at the end of his presentation at Centenary College and in his book, "Value and Virtue in a Godless Universe," God is not dead and is a very real part of what determines meaning of life, ethics, and morality in this world today. I certainly do not profess to be a qualified spokesman for God. Nor am I learned philosopher and teacher like Wielenberg. However, I look forward to discussing the evidence that seems to elude Russell and Wielenberg. I will bring my tool kit that includes essentially the same tools each of us bring to such a discussion, including the tools of experience, knowledge, tradition, and faith.

Loosely based on an idea posed by C. S. Lewis in defining Moral Law, I support the idea that God writes the tune and we play the keys. I believe in the good in every person and have expressed this before in my writing. I had the privilege of meeting Wielenberg and find him to be a very good person who speaks warmly and lovingly of his two sons. To answer the question as to whether a person can be "good" without God, I would say yes, but to actually say that our makeup is absent of God in what drives our basic nature is as valid as to deny our genetic composition. In our discussion Monday I will introduce scientific principle and Lucy's theorem of algebra to support this position and address Wienlenberg's argument of improbability as it relates to God and morality.

I find it interesting that Wielenberg in his book supports moral absolutes derived solely from human derivation. He then lists (as arguments about God's influence) very human failings. In my view, I guess you can base morality on your own imagination or that of humanity, but I choose to accept the reality of God as an essential foundation for what gives me meaning of life, ethics and morality.

As each of us play through the music of our life, we might occasionally deviate from the page, ad lib, or even "take a ride". As for myself, I do believe I will occasionally look up and try to play the tune that God intends for me.

Roy Fish
Community Member

Dr. Wielenberg's presentation and the audience response illustrate the importance of definition. When asked if he is an agnostic or an atheist, he responded that at times he may be a bit uncertain, but if required to choose it would be atheist. If I were asked this question, I would say if you are enquiring of my belief in a God that is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, and just, who spoke the world into existence, I am not a theist and if one must be characterized as a theist or an atheist, I am an atheist. By other definitions or concepts of God, I might be a theist.

I agree with Dr. Wielenberg that morality does not require the existence of belief in God. There are some things that humans almost universally believe to be moral and other immoral regardless of their religious beliefs or attribution of moral truth. I know of no civilization that does not condemn murder, though I recognize that it is sometimes moral to kill. Adultery as defined today is generally considered immoral though not as defined in the Bible (Paul's letter to the Romans), that if a man gives his wife a writ of divorcement for any cause other than fornication, he who thereafter marries her commits adultery, and in one of the two places in the Bible where this matter is discussed, he too is said to be an adulterer if he remarries. Theists and atheists believe thieving to be immoral as a general proposition, though if it be to save the life of a hungry child, the condemnation would likely be less severe if at all. The same general proposition is true about lying. The Bible says in one place that we need only six commandments: don't kill, steal, bear false witness, commit adultery, or covet, and that everything else is covered by its version of the golden rule. Slavery is generally considered to be immoral today though not in Biblical times, and most, though not all societies, including some of the most religious, think it immoral to treat women as they were treated in days of yore.

Each society formulates its concept of morality, and there is more agreement than disagreement among them, though there is an absence of perfect accord in any. It is generally predicted on what is deemed best for that society and it evolves over time as the result of enlightenment and exposure.

The moral code enunciated by Paul Kurtz, published inside the front cover of every issue of Free Inquiry magazine is my favorite. He states 21 principles of Humanism that include a moral code. My favorite is the 14th, that says, "We believe in the common moral decencies: altruism, integrity, honesty, truthfulness, responsibility. Humanist ethics are amenable to critical, rational guidance. There are normative standards that we discover together. Moral principles are tested by their consequences." His opening statement is, "we are committed to the application of reason and science to the understanding of the universe and to the solving of human problems."

I have virtually the same concept of morality as my Christian friends; however, I am looking forward to the March 3 Forum and the opportunity to discuss the concept and importance of morality in human affairs.

Danish professor returns to Centenary after 24 years

Todd Johnson
A&E Editor

Conglomerate: Can you briefly introduce yourself to our readers?

Professor Petersen: Yes. I am Professor Per Serittslev Petersen. I come from Denmark. The reason why I'm here, well, it starts back in the 70's when Dr. Labor was the Fulbright Professor in Denmark. That's how we met. We sort of organized a professor exchange program with Centenary and the University of Aarhus. I was chairman of the English Department at Aarhus at the time and I exchanged with Centenary in 1984. We have been friends ever since and a couple of years ago, because I knew that Dr. Labor was writing this definitive biography of Jack London, I told him that if he ever needed a research sabbatical where you can concentrate on his book, let me know because I would teach his classes for that semester. Last year, he e-mailed me and we settled the arrangement and that is the reason why I am here.

Congo: Where else have you taught besides Centenary?

Petersen: England many years, but mostly it has been Aarhus and Centenary back in the 80's. Back then, we exchanged faculty and we would exchange classes, professors, students, whatever. However, this is a different arrangement because I am filling in for Dr. Labor this semester.

Congo: What classes do you currently teach?

Petersen: Well, when I taught here the first time, I focused on British Studies, but since I am taking over for Dr. Labor's classes, my classes this semester have been mostly introductory courses and American Literature after the Civil War. But I have specialized in American Studies and that started in 1995 when I was invited by the American Embassy in Copenhagen to go on a tour of about 10 or 12 universities from Boston to San Francisco. That's where I really started doing American Studies.

Congo: What is your impression of Centenary so far?

Petersen: I think that it is a great place. I really liked teaching here back in 1984 and the campus is a beautiful campus. It is a great place. One of the main reasons I suggested this arrangement with Dr. Labor was that I wanted to come back and teach here. I actually noticed that the Conglomerate has really improved. It's well-written and the quality has improved since 1984.

Congo: What do you think your biggest challenge will be here this semester?

Petersen: Because I'm now teaching Dr. Labor's classes, I will have to adjust more than I did in 1984 to the way you are taught and the way you have been taught. I also noticed that I could have a problem with some of the southern dialects. But only in a few cases where the pronunciation is slurred. Otherwise, I don't really see myself having too many problems.

Congo: What are your hobbies outside of class?

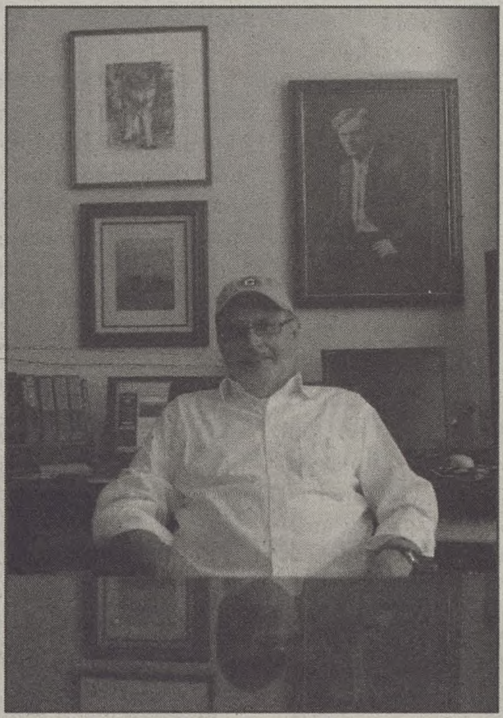
Petersen: I am still an active scholar, so it is doing research. Of course, I have followed the primaries very closely because I am interested in seeing the differences between the American and Danish elections. I have been doing a lot of TV viewing comparing the different approaches to politics. I find it interesting to have things like "The Obama Factor," which could never happen in Europe with the almost religious charisma. So that has been interesting, too.

Congo: What are your pet peeves in class?

Petersen: I've still got a problem in introductory courses with response from the class. The upper level courses haven't presented me any problems so far.

Congo: Since you are teaching American Literature, who are your favorite American authors?

Petersen: Okay, of course, I have been reading a lot of Jack London as I am also a Jack London scholar. Also, I have been reading Emily Dickinson. As far as contemporary, I would say Don DeLillo. For poetry, it is Emily Dickinson and Wallace Stevens.



Pictured: Dr. Petersen in his new home, Dr. Labor's office in the English Department. Photo by Versha Sharma.

Tech news: Companies start bidding war for Yahoo in order to rival Google

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

For the past few weeks, there has been a lot of news circulating about Yahoo, a company that works primarily in the internet search business. Microsoft, on February 1, 2008, offered $44 billion (USD) to take over Yahoo. The software giant currently runs the MSN search engine.

Microsoft's chief finance officer, Chris Liddell, noted that, "If you look at the cash component, that's [the opening stage of the merger] going to be over $20 billion in cash.... We could fund most of that through our cash holdings, but it's likely we're actually going to borrow for the first time."

Analysts at BBC and CNET have said that the reason for Microsoft's very expensive proposal stems from a desire to combat Google's dominance in the search industry, and Google definitely posts worrisome numbers for its competitors. According to Hitwise, in November 2007, it controlled 65.1 percent of the search engine market share, compared to Yahoo's 21.21 percent and MSN's 7.09 percent... and it seems as if its command of the market is only growing stronger.

Microsoft has eagerly searched for a way to combat this trend, deciding that a takeover of Yahoo would be beneficial and, according to CEO Steve Ballmer, give birth to a "strong number two competitor."

Google fails to share this view, and its chief legal officer and senior vice president for corporate development, David Drummond, argued that, "Microsoft's hostile bid for Yahoo raises troubling questions." He also added, "While the internet rewards competitive innovation, Microsoft has frequently sought to establish proprietary monopolies—and then leverage its dominance into new, adjacent markets."

Drummond's statement comes with a bit of history, referencing Microsoft's frequent buyouts of smaller companies in order to take over their technology and the antitrust suit filed against the corporation by the United States in 1998 for abusing its power as a monopoly (in concern to operating systems and web browsers). The European Union has also fined Microsoft in the past for similar reasons.

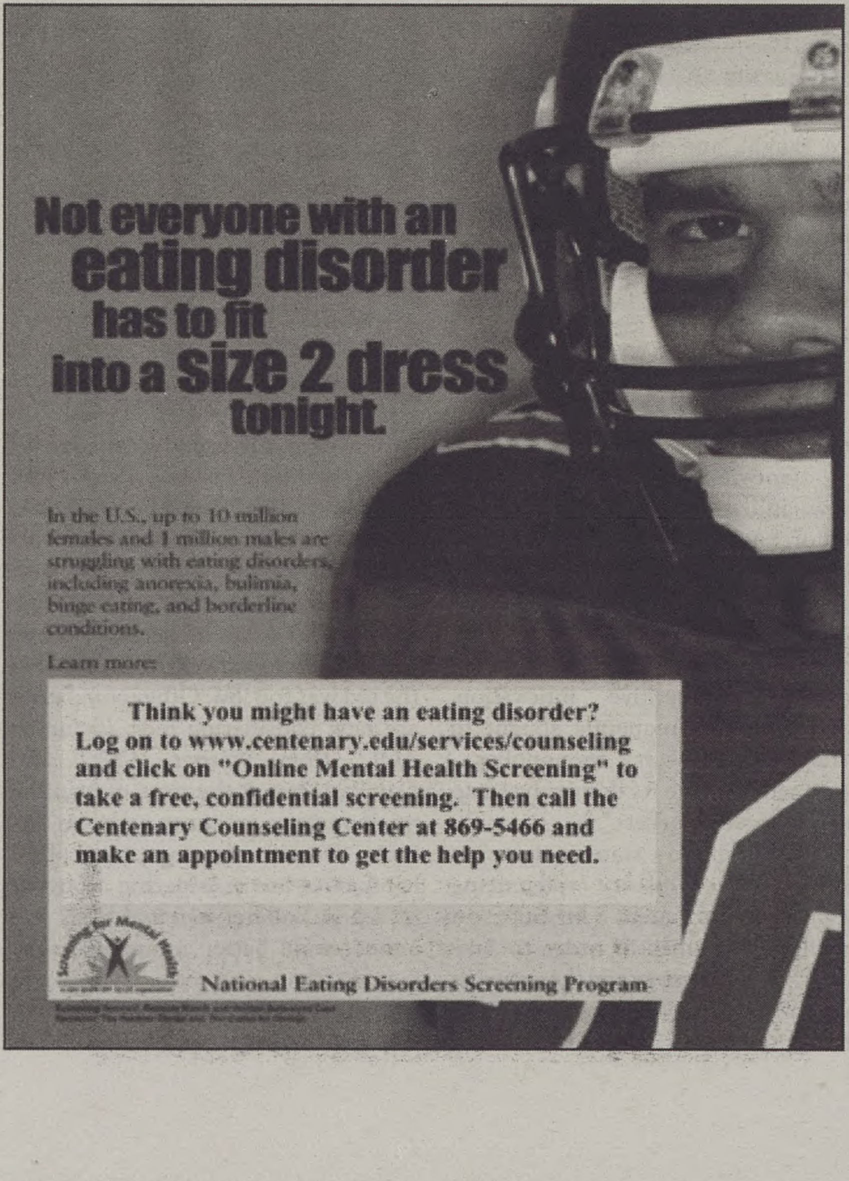
Google's desires seem to be winning out nonetheless. Yahoo refused Microsoft's offer, saying that the bid was too low. Other companies are now considering bids, including AOL, Time Warner, AT&T and Comcast, but at the time of printing no monetary amounts were on the table. Despite the fact that other companies are considering a buyout of Yahoo, Ballmer said that MSN and Yahoo could better compete against Google than any other merger, a statement that could ring true if the deal goes through.

NATIONAL NEWS

Berkeley deals with Marine controversy

Kari Patterson
Staff Writer

The city of Berkeley, California, is attempting to improve its image and deal with the backlash it received in response to last month's attempt to oust the Marines from the city. The City Council voted in January to send a letter to the Marine Corps essentially asking them to close their recruiting center, leave town and never come back. Berkeley is opposed to the war in Iraq, and felt that not having any recruiting centers in town would prevent its young people from joining the military. However, the language of the resolution, which suggested the Marines were "uninvited and unwelcome intruders" to the city, sparked a nationwide controversy. Conservative legislators were outraged at what they considered to be an insult to members of the armed forces and their families. Senator Jim DeMint of South Carolina, backed by around ten other Senators including Louisiana's own David Vitter, immediately proposed cutting federal funding from Berkeley and reallocating it to the Marines. Claiming that they had "no idea" the anti-recruiter resolution would be received so poorly, City Council reversed its decision to send the letter. The controversy continues, however, as pro-military groups launched ad campaigns against the city while anti-military groups continue to protest at the Marine recruiter's site.



Not everyone with an eating disorder has to fit into a size 2 dress tonight.

In the U.S., up to 10 million females and 1 million males are struggling with eating disorders, including anorexia, bulimia, binge eating, and borderline conditions.

Learn more:

Think you might have an eating disorder? Log on to www.centenary.edu/services/counseling and click on "Online Mental Health Screening" to take a free, confidential screening. Then call the Centenary Counseling Center at 869-5466 and make an appointment to get the help you need.

National Eating Disorders Screening Program

New fad the Juicy Campus website is devoted to spreading rumors and gossip

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

As if the average college student doesn't already have enough things to be outraged about, s/he now has a new reason to fume. JuicyCampus.com, a website devoted to spreading rumors about other college students, is free and anonymous, and it has caused a backlash throughout United States universities, 60 of which are featured on the site.

Juicy Campus
Beta

While college administrators don't seem to like the site, there's nothing they can do about it; JuicyCampus is accessible worldwide, so there's no way to block its use. It commonly features threads like "prof sleeping with student," "sorostitutes," and "[student's name removed for protection] is a pedophile."

The site's anonymity is also fairly unquestioned. JuicyCampus prevents its message boards from being accessed by search engine crawlers such as Google, and its privacy policy says that, while it does keep logs of visitors' IP addresses, "the logs do not associate IP addresses with specific posts." It also suggests that visitors make use of proxy websites to mask their IPs so that they remain completely untraceable.

Matt Ivester, the founder of JuicyCampus, said in response to demands to shut down the website that, "Like anything that is even remotely controversial, there are always people who demand censorship; however, we believe that JuicyCampus can have a really positive impact on college campuses, as a place for both entertainment and free expression. Frankly, we're surprised that any college administration would be against the free exchange of ideas."

While it's true that JuicyCampus does in some ways represent the exchange of free ideas, there are concerns that it goes far beyond the realm of free speech. An Associated Press article noted that, "At Loyola Marymount, a now-former student was arrested after allegedly posting a threat of a campus shooting spree on JuicyCampus." In light of recent events at Virginia Tech and other schools, serious problems arise.

For the moment, though, JuicyCampus will continue to live on, as no law has been yet proposed against it and those who are trash-talked on the site have little to no recourse. Fortunately (or unfortunately, depending on your views), Centenary students shouldn't see rumors about themselves on JuicyCampus any time soon. The website has been frozen at 60 colleges for the last few months.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

French President proposes controversial Holocaust classes

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

A storm of criticism hit French president Nicholas Sarkozy when he announced his plan to have all fifth graders learn the life story of one French child who fell victim to the Holocaust. Critics say that this would needlessly burden young children, and that it could traumatize them to learn the story of a child of their age who was senselessly murdered.

Gilles Moindrot, a teachers' union leader, said that, "One cannot place on a child of 11 the responsibility for what happened back then." EMDH, a children's rights advocacy group in France, was quoted as saying, "No educational project should be constructed on death." Many others seem to feel this way.

Sarkozy fired back on February 22, stating that, "It is ignorance that prompts the repetition of abominable situations, not knowledge... If you do not talk to them of this tragedy, then you should not be surprised if it repeats itself."

Earlier, he said that, "Nothing is more moving, for a child, than the story of a child his own age, who has the same games, the same joys and the same hopes as he, but who, in the dawn of the 1940s, had the bad fortune to be defined as a Jew."

France was hit very hard by World War II – the Holocaust took the lives of around 11,000 children – so it stands as no surprise that the country would enact such legislation. Sarkozy's plan had the strong support of his own conservative UMP party as well as that of the leader of the Socialist party, François Hollande.

Even though the government supports his plan for the most part, the public disapproval of the plan could be linked to his sliding ratings. An OpinionWay poll referenced by Reuters "found 82 percent of respondents believed Sarkozy's private life fell short of that of a head of state." This comes after heavy controversy over his public affair with supermodel Carla Bruni, which opposition leaders say has been a distraction that hides his lack of politics.

Photo by Regis Duvignau for Reuters.

Kosovo faces problems with newly declared independence

Kari Patterson
Staff Writer

Kosovo may have declared its independence on February 17, but it has a long fight ahead of it as Serbia looks determined to sabotage the fledgling state. Although Serbia claims that it will not resort to military force to retaliate against Kosovo, several customs points on the newly-established border have been destroyed by Serbians, and the anti-Kosovo demonstrations have grown increasingly violent. US diplomatic officials joined EU observers in withdrawing from Serbia due to safety concerns after attacks on the US and Croatian embassies in Belgrade, Serbia's capital.

The attacks were apparently in response to both nations' formal recognition of Kosovo, as Serbia has protested against every state who has recognized Kosovo thus far, even going so far as to recall their ambassador from the US, though Serbian officials claimed they were not breaking diplomatic ties. The UN currently remains "status-neutral" on Kosovo's independence, neither acknowledging nor denying their statehood, but Russia has announced that it would block any attempt to recognize Kosovo in the Security Council, and China would certainly side with Russia. Russia has violently suppressedindependencemovements in Chechnya, and China refuses to recognize Taiwan as an independent country, so both Russia and China see Kosovo's independence as setting a potentially dangerous precedent.

Serbia still claims Kosovo as part of its territory, historically and under a UN resolution that recognizes Kosovo as part of Serbia, and asserts that Kosovo broke away illegally. Kosovo, which is largely comprised of ethnic Albanians, was the site of a war between the Kosovo Liberation Army and Serbian forces in the late 1990s, when Kosovo tried to win its independence.

KSCL Battle of the Bands

The Shell's main event kicks off in one month. The event is the 5th Annual Battle of the Bands brought to you by KSCL 91.3 FM and the Centenary Homecoming Committee. The date is Saturday, March 29th at 1pm.

KSCL is seeking eight performers (groups or solo acts) from any genre of music. These artists will compete for first, second, and third place prizes ($300, 150, 50 respectively). Submissions can be digital tracks (send to ksclbotb@gmail.com) or physical CDs (via the post office in the SUB). The last day to turn in submissions is Thursday, March 20th.

This will be a big event for Centenary, KSCL, Highland, and Shreveport so we're looking for help. If anyone is interested in volunteering some time, but not competing, please contact ksclbotb@gmail.com.

Advice from Allison: On serious relationships and what to do in Shreve on weekends

Allison Cormier
Staff Writer

The opinions and ideas expressed in this article do not in any way reflect those of Centenary College, the Conglomerate, or the writer herself. In fact, these ideas probably don't express any intelligently informed opinions anyway.

Dear Allison,

I am so bored on campus during the weekends. I really don't enjoy going down to the frat houses, the Boardwalk is a little creepy, and I am too young to go out to the clubs in town. What are some fun activities that I can do without getting into trouble?

I Am So Bored

Dear Bored,

There are a lot of things you can do on the weekends that don't involve alcohol, drugs, or attracting members of the opposite sex. For example, it is Oscar season, which means that the movie theatres are about to get some pretty highly acclaimed films that did not make it to Shreveport originally. Also, the resident assistants are always having programs on the weekends and usually have free food available. There are even some pretty decent musical acts that have all-ages shows. My favorite weekend activity is just to get some friends together and head out to our favorite restaurant. It is low-key, and you get to spend some great conversation time with your buddies. If simply going out to eat with your friends is not entertaining enough, you can always drive around Shreveport looking for your ex-boyfriend. It is like a city-wide game of hide-and-seek and is not illegal unless you get closer than that pesky restraining order allows.

Dear Allison,

I have been dating a guy for over a month and am ready to make our relationship exclusive. The problem is that I don't know if he is ready to take that step in our relationship. Should I ask him anyway, or should I wait for a more definite sign?

Getting-Serious Sophomore

Dear Getting-Serious,

Boys sure are tricky, aren't they? I think the best thing to do is talk to your guy about it. Ask him in plain language if he wants the relationship to be exclusive. If he says no, then you can either wait for him to change his mind (and who knows how long that will take) or you can end the relationship. Some guys never want to make the relationship exclusive and assume that you feel the same way. If all else fails, just start dating his best friend. Your guy will either realize that he wants to be serious or, hey, you're dating his best friend!

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Ralph shakes up the White House race: an analysis of sorts

James King
Contributing Writer

Which four foot tall, crotchety consumer advocate recently announced his presidential candidacy as an independent? If you guessed anyone but Ralph Nader, you're wrong (and a little dumb). To the chagrin of Democrats and delight of Republicans, the liberal party-pooper announced his fifth presidential candidacy on NBC's "Meet the Press" last Sunday.

Are you saying to yourself "why"? Why would he choose to endure the physical, emotional, and financial stresses brought about by a presidential bid when he knows that his chances of winning are slimmer than the likelihood of Centenary actually paying to remove the fields of asbestos on the second floor of Magale Library? His reason is simple: America's dissatisfaction with both political parties. Specifically, the immense Democratic acquiescence to the miserable Bush blunders of the last 7 years.

Transcending the Bush woes, Nader offers serious critiques of the political system that neither parties ever address. For instance, he states, "We have the worst tax system—perverse incentives that reward speculators on Wall Street [the capital gains tax rate, which is lower than the income tax rate]. Why aren't we taxing speculation on Wall Street instead of heavily taxing human labor and sales taxing necessities like food and appliances and furniture and clothing?"

Two words Ralph: shut up! Could he bitch and moan any more? How dare he engage in democracy by running for President, which could steal votes away from the entitled Democratic candidate. How dare he wish to inject another view into the American political system. We only have 300 million citizens in this country, so two serious candidates are enough. Go home, Ralph.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS

KSCL Manager speaks out

Jon Schleuss

KSCL 91.3FM, Centenary's radio station, has seen tremendous growth in the past year. Late last summer, we launched a blog and podcast. We've cleaned up our program schedule and posted this online as a Google Calendar. We've produced several interviews and posted them online. We've dramatically increased our education in broadcasting content and presentation. I'm extremely excited to be part of our growth. I'm happy to have influenced it.

While KSCL has become one of the "hippest" radio stations in northwest Louisiana, we have run into many brick walls. One problem has been the lack of support we receive on campus. Student media are often quickly forgotten on campus. SGA forgets we exist. First-year students barely know anything about us. We're not on the priority list of many areas at Centenary. For the radio station, students pass up opportunities out of apathy or lack of interest, or both. Any student can apply to have a radio show. Any student can check out equipment to record interviews or present their research. We have an international reach with our website and a large physical reach with our FM transmitter. Still, students pass up these opportunities. While this is disheartening, we have other issues.

The largest problem that KSCL faces is a financial one. KSCL received the same amount of money from SGA as it did three years ago, before the upgrade. The upgrade expanded our listener base to the highest number in over 30 years. That's student-run media reaching a potential half-million people. Imagine the possibilities. Yet, receiving the same nominal budget isn't catching us up to our growth.

Running off the same budget has created many internal problems. For instance, we haven't been paying our staff reasonable wages. Our music director regularly clocks forty hours a week reviewing CDs, updating charts, reporting to record companies and promoters, and informing DJs of updates and news. Is it right for us to only pay the music director for eight hours a week (at minimum wage)? KSCL cannot afford to pay the music director more than eight hours a week, even though it's a raise from previous years. We've had to make serious cutbacks, all at the expense of our listeners and our college.

> **"If policies are not amended, expect my resignation..."**

Another example is our ability to stream over the Internet. The chips have fallen into place. The financial resources have not.

After spending a year with these problems hanging over my head, I'm done. I cannot see how the station can grow if the college, and namely student fees, aren't "tuned into ninety-one-point-three." If policies are not amended, expect my resignation. There is no point in running a student radio station for the college if our student-fee percentage isn't allowed to grow when we grow. It is impossible to ask so much of the station's staff while giving so little in return.

The fiscally responsible move for KSCL is to shut down in May and reopen in the fall as school resumes. Shutting down KSCL will hurt the radio station's reputation in the community. This is Centenary's reputation, too. Shutting down the station could also grab the eyes of the FCC, which could mean fines to the college. However, it seems impossible to run the station if there's no hope from the school for the future. I vowed to never close the station, but I see little alternative.

The one alternative I do see is a commitment from SGA to reorganize student fees and distribute them fairly, justifying every penny. This is the only assurance I need to run the station throughout the summer. I understand SGA cannot do anything 'serious' to the student fees this semester, but there is next year. Commitments for the future can be made.

I propose that SGA review student allocations to Homecoming, CAB, the Media Committee, and all other areas receiving student fees. I propose that SGA pay media heads fair wages, as opposed to the sixty-seven cents an hour I currently receive. Student Fees should be justified! As a student, I put blind faith into the hands of SGA to promote this campus and encourage growth at our college.

I'm extremely hopeful for the future. I've put countless hours into KSCL making the best possible radio station for the students, college, and Louisiana. I now leave the future up to my fellow students.

Student disappointed in administration's disregard for library staff

Mary Wubbena

As a senior majoring in history and political science, I have spent the majority of my class and study time in the library for the past three years. Because of this, I have developed a great deal of respect for the library staff due to their dedication and affection for the students. Today, I find myself disgusted and dismayed at the Administration's apparent lack of respect and regard for the health and safety of its staff members, and seriously question those administrators' ethics. Coercing members of the library staff to go into an unsafe and potentially hazardous area is morally wrong. This action, at least in my opinion, violates Centenary's statement of purpose, which states that "students and faculty work together to build a community focused on ethical and intellectual development." How are students supposed to develop ethically if the administration provides no worthwhile guidelines for ethical behavior? I understand that some administrators feel that the library staff is in no danger. The first email about the library sent out, however, which stated that nobody could retrieve books from the second floor for three weeks, indicates that the material has been moved around and is difficult to access.

At an institution that purports to encourage its students to "become leaders in the workplace, the community, the nation, and the world at large," students are having a difficult time learning by example. By re-carpeting the library in the middle of the semester at the expense of students and staff members alike, the administration has demonstrated a decided lack of effective leadership. This move demonstrates poor planning on the part of those in charge of refurbishing the second floor of the library, a remodeling that would have been useful a year ago when it was first damaged. Instead, students have learned what not to do when acting in a leadership position. Because of the lack of advance notice, students with papers due in the next few weeks will be unable to have full access to all the resources Magale can offer. And yes, I understand that librarians can still access the second floor. However, I would not feel comfortable asking them to go upstairs into an environment that I am not allowed to enter.

I understand that there are no easy solutions to this problem. We have to deal with it the best we can. At best, I think a member of DPS should be assigned to the library for the duration of the remodeling so that he or she can retrieve the requested material. Still, the administration should have just better judgment in its remodeling plans.

Opinion: We're all going to die

Lauren Brown, Senior

And I don't mean that we're all going to get old, toothless, and senile. I mean, we are - you can count on it – but more in the sense that tons of the populated areas of the World will be submerged in water. (Most major cities are on the water, go figure.) Remember how New York got bombed and we spent billions of dollars trying to get even with the guys who did it and then even more invading another country? Well, now imagine that New York is the new Atlantis, and we could have helped to stop it by putting some of our biggest national budget towards fixing it, but our government officials were too busy profiting off of the oil that contributes to global warming. To their favor, it's not like we don't need to the oil, since there is no business model to capture renewable energy sources and profit from them. But wait! Maybe there's a reason there isn't since important members of the government depend on oil profits. Hey Kyoto, we'll get back to you.

So, here we sit, waiting while leonardodicaprio.org makes us feel better and worse about our imminent doom. People in Japan are getting dangerous levels of mercury in their tuna. Children in Cancer Alley, Louisiana are getting sick. The inside of the ice caps look like Grandma's doilies. All the while, we have clean sources of energy that are free. Plants have been taking advantage of the sun for years, and it's proven that we can use water and tide power – it's called a mill. The wind is there, too. Sure, birds sometimes fly into the windmills and die, but they'll just have to take one for the team. We need to get involved. Promote research. Stop buying new things. Turn our electronics off. Reuse, not just recycle. Plant trees on buildings. Cover cars in solar panels. Most of all, get angry. That's your air, not the chemical companies'. Our current lifestyle is great, but being able to breathe and drink water is even better. Putting corn in your car won't solve anything. We need to get scared, and we need to fight back, because if we wait for the glaciers to melt, there won't be any government order to turn to. Think that the government didn't do well with Katrina? Imagine if that happened to the entire coastline of the world. This is our Vietnam, and this time, it involves the whole world. I'm not saying I'm perfect or that I have the answers, but I am saying that we need to spread the word and do something. I'd like to have grandchildren, wouldn't you?

> **"This is our Vietnam, and this time, it involves the whole world..."**

For more information:

Research the Kyoto Protocol or watch "Green," a film by Laura Dunn, or "An Inconvenient Truth," a.k.a. the Al Gore film

Featured editorial: famous author details sexism in the media and why she supports Hillary

Editor's note: The following editorial appeared on the Women's Media Center website on February 2 (http://womensmediacenter.com/ex/020108.html). The Conglomerate has obtained permission from Carol Newton, the author's publicist, for this reprint. We had to edit for space, however, so use the link for the full article. For more information about Mrs. Morgan, a self-proclaimed radical feminist and prolific author, visit www.robinmorgan.us.

Robin Morgan

"Goodbye To All That" was my (in)famous 1970 essay breaking free from a politics of accommodation especially affecting women (for an online version, see http://blog.fair-use.org/category/chicago/).

During my decades in civil-rights, anti-war, and contemporary women's movements, I've avoided writing another specific "Goodbye . . ." But not since the suffrage struggle have two communities—joint conscience-keepers of this country—been so set in competition, as the contest between Hillary Rodham Clinton (HRC) and Barack Obama (BO) unfurls. So.

Goodbye to the double standard . . .

—Hillary is too ballsy but too womanly, a Snow Maiden who's emotional, and so much a politician as to be unfit for politics.

—She's "ambitious" but he shows "fire in the belly." (Ever had labor pains?)—When a sexist idiot screamed "Iron my shirt!" at HRC, it was considered amusing; if a racist idiot shouted "Shine my shoes!" at BO, it would've inspired hours of airtime and pages of newsprint analyzing our national dishonor.

—Young political Kennedys—Kathleen, Kerry, and Bobby Jr.—all endorsed Hillary. Senator Ted, age 76, endorsed Obama. If the situation were reversed, pundits would snort "See? Ted and establishment types back her, but the forward-looking generation backs him." (Personally, I'm unimpressed with Caroline's longing for the Return of the Fathers. Unlike the rest of the world, Americans have short memories. Me, I still recall Marilyn Monroe's suicide, and a dead girl named Mary Jo Kopechne in Chappaquiddick.)

Goodbye to the toxic viciousness . . .

Carl Bernstein's disgust at Hillary's "thick ankles." Nixon-trickster Roger Stone's new Hillary-hating 527 group, "Citizens United Not Timid" (check the capital letters). John McCain answering "How do we beat the bitch?" with "Excellent question!" Would he have dared reply similarly to "How do we beat the black bastard?" For shame.

Goodbye to the HRC nutcracker with metal spikes between splayed thighs. If it was a tap-dancing blackface doll, we would be righteously outraged—and they would not be selling it in airports. Shame.

Goodbye to the most intimately violent T-shirts in election history, including one with the murderous slogan "If Only Hillary had married O.J. Instead!" Shame.

Goodbye to Comedy Central's "Southpark" featuring a storyline in which terrorists secrete a bomb in HRC's vagina. I refuse to wrench my brain down into the gutter far enough to find a race-based comparison. For shame.

Goodbye to the sick, malicious idea that this is funny. This is not "Clinton hating," not "Hillary hating." This is sociopathic woman-hating. If it were about Jews, we would recognize it instantly as anti-Semitic propaganda; if about race, as KKK poison. Hell, PETA would go ballistic if such vomitous spew were directed at animals. Where is our sense of outrage—as citizens, voters, Americans?

Goodbye to the news-coverage target-practice . . .

The women's movement and Media Matters wrung an apology from MSNBC's Chris Matthews for relentless misogynistic comments (www.womensmediacenter.com). But what about NBC's Tim Russert's continual sexist asides and his all-white-male panels pontificating on race and gender? Or CNN's Tony Harris chuckling at "the chromosome thing" while interviewing a woman from The White House Project? And that's not even mentioning Fox News.

Goodbye to pretending the black community is entirely male and all women are white . . .

Surprise! Women exist in all opinions, pigmentations, ethnicities, abilities, sexual preferences, and ages—not only African American and European American but Latina and Native American, Asian American and Pacific Islanders, Arab American and—hey, every group, because a group wouldn't exist if we hadn't given birth to it. A few non-racist countries may exist—but sexism is everywhere.

cont. on next page

Featured editorial, cont. from page 16

No matter how many ways a woman breaks free from other discriminations, she remains a female human being in a world still so patriarchal that it's the "norm."

So why should all women not be as justly proud of our womanhood and the centuries, even millennia, of struggle that got us this far, as black Americans, women and men, are justly proud of their struggles?

Goodbye to a campaign where he has to pass as white (which whites—especially wealthy ones—adore), while she has to pass as male (which both men and women demanded of her, and then found unforgivable). If she were blackor he were female we wouldn't be having such problems, and I for one would be in heaven. But at present such a candidate wouldn't stand a chance—even if she shared Condi Rice's Bush-defending politics.

I was celebrating the pivotal power at last focused on African American women deciding on which of two candidates to bestow their vote—until a number of Hillary-supporting black feminists told me they're being called "race traitors."

So goodbye to conversations about this nation's deepest scar—slavery—which fail to acknowledge that labor- and sexual-slavery exist today in the U.S. and elsewhere on this planet, and the majority of those enslaved are women.

We know that at this historical moment women experience the world differently from men—though not all the same as one another—and can govern differently, from Elizabeth Tudor to Michele Bachelet and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

We remember when Shirley Chisholm and Patricia Schroeder ran for this high office and barely got past the gate—they showed too much passion, raised too little cash, were joke fodder. Goodbye to all that. (And goodbye to some feminists so famished for a female president they were even willing to abandon women's rights in backing Elizabeth Dole.)

Goodbye, goodbye to . . .

—blaming anything Bill Clinton does on Hillary (even including his womanizing like the Kennedy guys—though unlike them, he got reported on). Let's get real. If he hadn't campaigned strongly for her everyone would cluck over what that meant. Enough of Bill and Teddy Kennedy locking their alpha male horns while Hillary pays for it.

—an era when parts of the populace feel so disaffected by politics that a comparative lack of knowledge, experience, and skill is actually seen as attractive, when celebrity-culture mania now infects our elections so that it's "cooler" to glow with marquee charisma than to understand the vast global complexities of power on a nuclear, wounded planet.

—the notion that it's fun to elect a handsome, cocky president who feels he can learn on the job, goodbye to George W. Bush and the destruction brought by his inexperience, ignorance, and arrogance. Goodbye to the accusation that HRC acts "entitled" when she's worked intensely at everything she's done—including being a nose-to-the-grindstone, first-rate senator from my state.

Goodbye to her being exploited as a Rorschach test by women who reduce her to a blank screen on which they project their own fears, failures, fantasies.

Goodbye to the phrase "polarizing figure" to describe someone who embodies the transitions women have made in the last century and are poised to make in this one. It was the women's movement that quipped, "We are becoming the men we wanted to marry." She heard us, and she has.

Goodbye to some women letting history pass by while wringing their hands, because Hillary isn't as "likeable" as they've been warned they must be, or because she didn't leave him, couldn't "control" him, kept her family together and raised a smart, sane daughter. (Think of the blame if Chelsea had ever acted in the alcoholic, neurotic manner of the Bush twins!) Goodbye to some women pouting because she didn't bake cookies or she did, sniping because she learned the rules and then bent or broke them. Grow the hell up. She is not running for Ms.-perfect-pure-queen-icon of the feminist movement. She's running to be president of the United States.

Goodbye to the shocking American ignorance of our own and other countries' history. Margaret Thatcher and Golda Meir rose through party ranks and war, positioning themselves as proto-male leaders. Almost all other female heads of government so far have been related to men of power—granddaughters, daughters, sisters, wives, widows: Gandhi, Bandaranike, Bhutto, Aquino, Chamorro, Wazed, Macapagal-Arroyo, Johnson Sirleaf, Bachelet, Kirchner, and more. Even in our "land of opportunity," it's mostly the first pathway "in" permitted to women: Representatives Doris Matsui and Mary Bono and Sala Burton; Senator Jean Carnahan . . . far too many to list here.

I'd rather say a joyful Hello to all the glorious young women who do identifywith Hillary, and all the brave, smart men—of all ethnicities and any age—who get that it's in their self-interest, too. She's better qualified. (D'uh.) She's a high-profile candidate with an enormous grasp of foreign- and domestic-policy nuance, dedication to detail, ability to absorb staggering insult and personal pain while retaining dignity, resolve, even humor, and keep on keeping on. (Also, yes, dammit, let's hear it for her connections and funding and party-building background, too. Obama was awfully glad about those when she raised dough and campaigned for him to get to the Senate in the first place.)

I'd rather look forward to what a good president he might make in eight years, when his vision and spirit are seasoned by practical know-how—and he'll be all of 54. Meanwhile, goodbye to turning him into a shining knight when actually he's an astute, smooth pol with speechwriters who've worked with the Kennedys' own speechwriter-courtier Ted Sorenson. If it's only about ringing rhetoric, let speechwriters run. But isn't it about getting the policies we want enacted?

And goodbye to the ageism . . .

How dare anyone unilaterally decide when to turn the page on history, papering over real inequities and suffering constituencies in the promise of a feel-good campaign? How dare anyone claim to unify while dividing, or think that to rouse U.S. youth from torpor it's useful to triage the single largest demographic in this country's history: the boomer generation—the majority of which is female?

Old woman are the one group that doesn't grow more conservative with age—and we are the generation of radicals who said "Well-behaved women seldom make history." Goodbye to going gently into any goodnight any man prescribes for us. We are the women who changed the reality of the United States. And though we never went away, brace yourselves: we're back!

We are the women who now comprise the majority of U.S. voters.

Hillary said she found her own voice in New Hampshire. There's not a woman alive who, if she's honest, doesn't recognize what she means. Then HRC got drowned out by campaign experts, Bill, and media's obsession with everything Bill.

Time is short and the contest tightening. We need to rise in furious energy—as we did when Anita Hill was so vilely treated in the U.S. Senate, as we did when Rosie Jiminez was butchered by an illegal abortion, as we did and do for women globally who are condemned for trying to break through. We need to win, this time. Goodbye to supporting HRC tepidly, with ambivalent caveats and apologetic smiles. Time to volunteer, make phone calls, send emails, donate money, argue, rally, march, shout, vote.

Me? I support Hillary Rodham because she's the best qualified of all candidates running in both parties. I support her because her progressive politics are as strong as her proven ability to withstand what will be a massive right-wing assault in the general election. I support her because she knows how to get us out of Iraq. I support her because she's refreshingly thoughtful, and I'm bloodied from eight years of a jolly "uniter" with ejaculatory politics. I needn't agree with her on every point. I agree with the 97 percent of her positions that are identical with Obama's—and the few where hers are both more practical and to the left of his (like health care). I support her because she's already smashed the first-lady stereotype and made history as a fine senator, because I believe she will continue to make history not only as the first US woman president, but as a great US president.

As for the "woman thing"?

Me, I'm voting for Hillary not because she's a woman—but because I am.

A&E

And the winner is…

Oscar winners revealed

Todd Johnson
A&E Editor

As a movie nerd, the Oscars always perk my attention. However, this year, I was not really excited about the nominees. But that does not mean that the Oscars was not worth a watch or that the winners should not be reviewed.

The ceremony opened with a really cool montage featuring movie moments clashing and combining to create something really cool. However, the coolest thing was when King Kong swung in and kicked Godzilla into a building…nerdgasm.

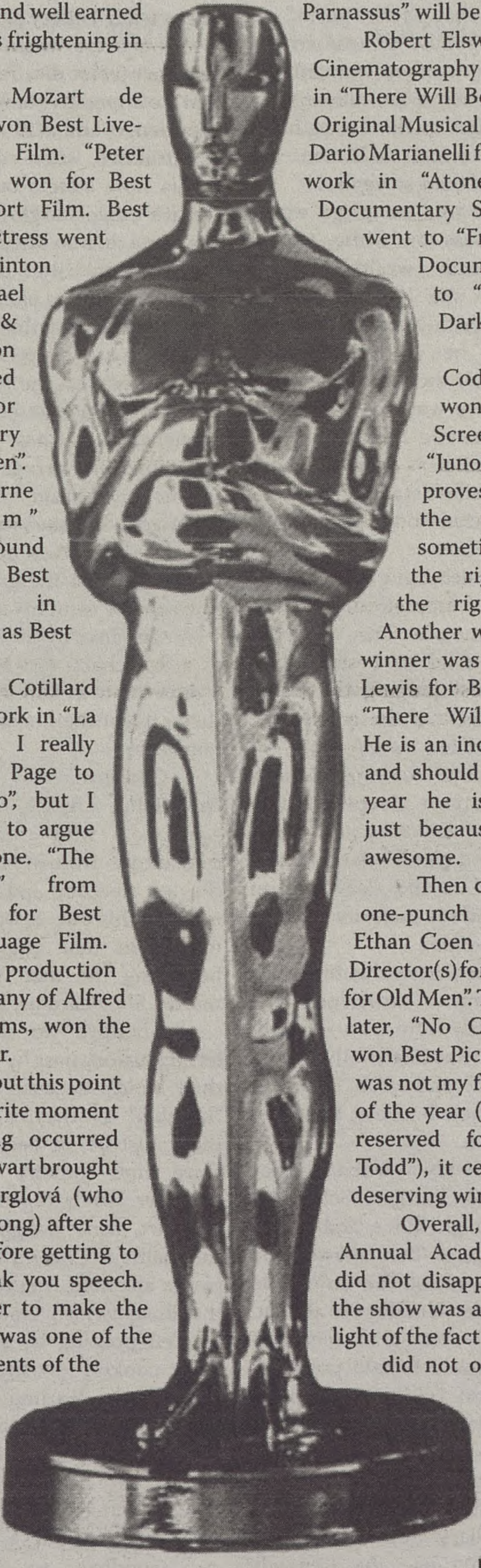
John Stewart opened with a really funny monologue. My personal favorite line – "Too often the Academy ignores movies that aren't good". Anyway, Alexandra Byrne won Best Costume Design for "Elizabeth: The Golden Age". The next category announced was Best Animated Feature, which went to "Ratatouille".

Didier Lavergne and Jan Archibald won Best Makeup for "La Vie En Rose". At least the Oscar did not go to "Norbit", regardless of how good the Makeup was in the movie.

Next, Amy Adams sang "Happy Working Song" from "Enchanted". The girl can sing and the song was fun. Yet, it was not to be as other songs from "Enchanted" like "So Close" and "That's How You Know" went against "Falling Slowly" from "Once" and "Raise It Up" from "August Rush". The winner was, deservedly, "Falling Slowly" which is an absolutely amazing song.

Then came the night's travesty – "The Golden Compass" winning best visual effects. I'm sorry, but I am a little partial to giant, freaking robots. "Transformers" should have won.

Best Art Direction went to Dante Ferretti and Francesca Lo Schiavo for "Sweeney Todd". The next category was for Best Supporting Actor, which went to Javier Bardem for his role as Anton Chigurh in "No Country for Old Men". This was not a shocker and well earned as the man was frightening in that film.



"Le Mozart de pickpockets" won Best Live-Action Short Film. "Peter & The Wolf" won for Best Animated Short Film. Best Supporting Actress went to Tilda Swinton for "Michael Clayton". Joel & Ethan Coen won Best Adapted Screenplay for "No Country for Old Men". "The Bourne Ultimatum" won Best Sound Editing and Best Achievement in Sound, as well as Best Editing.

Marion Cotillard won for her work in "La Vie En Rose". I really wanted Ellen Page to win for "Juno", but I am not going to argue against this one. "The Counterfeiters" from Austria won for Best Foreign Language Film. Robert Boyle, a production designer on many of Alfred Hitchcock's films, won the honorary Oscar.

It was about this point where my favorite moment of the evening occurred when John Stewart brought out Marketa Irglová (who won for Best Song) after she was cut off before getting to make her thank you speech. He allowed her to make the speech and it was one of the sweetest moments of the entire night.

At this point, the "In Memoriam" segment aired, and while I did not know most of the names on the screen, one did stick out to me. That was Heath Ledger. It is a shame that we only have two performances left from after his brilliant, but short career. Hopefully, his work in "The Dark Knight" and "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus" will be amazing.

Robert Elswitt won Best Cinematography for his work in "There Will Be Blood". Best Original Musical Score went to Dario Marianelli for his brilliant work in "Atonement". Best Documentary Short Feature went to "Freeheld". Best Documentary went to "Taxi to the Dark Side".

Diablo Cody deservedly won Best Original Screenplay for "Juno", which proves that the Oscars can sometimes award the right film in the right category. Another well deserving winner was Daniel Day-Lewis for Best Actor for "There Will Be Blood". He is an incredible actor and should win it every year he is nominated just because he is so awesome.

Then came the final one-punch with Joel & Ethan Coen winning Best Director(s) for "No Country for Old Men". Then, seconds later, "No Country" was won Best Picture. While it was not my favorite movie of the year (that honor is reserved for "Sweeney Todd"), it certainly was a deserving winner.

Overall, the 80th Annual Academy Awards did not disappoint, though the show was a little tame in light of the fact that it almost did not occur because of the writer's strike. Anyway, the show went on and all seemed right with the world. Now, I have to catch up on all the films that were either nominated or won that night.

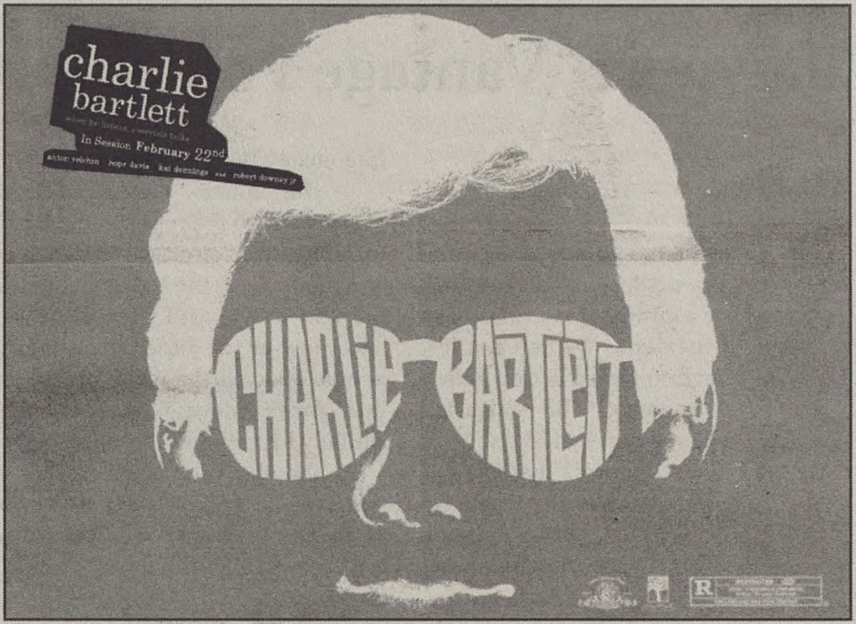
Review: "Charlie Bartlett": The film everyone's buzzing about

Sam Ortiz
Staff Writer

Every so often a film comes around that wasn't advertised as much as other films or touted around Tinseltown like Jolie-Pitt's latest adoption, but should be given a great deal of consideration. These sleeper hits, like "Charlie Bartlett," are a treat in cinema and always serve to make me really excited! It is uncertain what director Jon Poll had in mind when he was imagining the backlash of his first major motion picture. Luckily for him, he made a great movie.

This film, centering on high school student Charlie Bartlett (Anton Yelchin, "Alpha Dog"), deals with the many psychoses that revolve around teenage life. Charlie becomes some sort of hero in his school after taking on the role of school therapist and even selling behavioral meds to students. Just judging the plotline, it is apparent that the quality of the movie could have swung either way and without a great cast, it would have most likely been a pretty lame movie. It's pertinent to know that had the director not made the choices he did, it could've been on its way to being the next "Agent Cody Banks" type film…

Two words explain what made this movie: Anton Yelchin. I have never fallen so hard so fast for a film character before. Yelchin is reminiscent of a young Johnny Depp with his chiseled features and extremely well-portrayed method acting. Like Depp, Yelchin brought his character to life and embodied him with 110% conviction. I have been following Yelchin since he was a kid in "Along Came a Spider" and "Hearts in Atlantis," so it is very cool to see how much he has grown into a terrific actor. I guarantee you right now that he is a star we should look for in the next few years, because with his talent and uncanny charisma how could he not be well on his way to cementing his place in cinematic royalty.



I suppose I should at least mention the supporting cast, though none shone as brilliantly as Yelchin. The great cast included: Robert Downey Jr. ("Wonder Boys"), Hope Davis ("The Weather Man") and Kat Dennings ("E.R."). The only actor I couldn't stand was Tyler Hilton (CW's "One Tree Hill"), but no surprise there.

The last person I must mention is the writer, newcomer Gustin Nash, who has literally no other credits! Even with an all-star cast, if it was a bad movie there would be no saving it. I loved the writing; it was funny, realistic and had a plot that was fun to follow. I felt taken from the opening scene until the credits started rolling. It's pretty safe to say that I loved this movie. Yelchin was so rewarding to watch and he stole my heart almost instantaneously. Plus, I haven't laughed so hard since "Juno" or "Superbad," so I recommend this one for sure. Just remember - don't even try. Anton is mine!

CD Review: Amy Winehouse is not just a crackhead

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

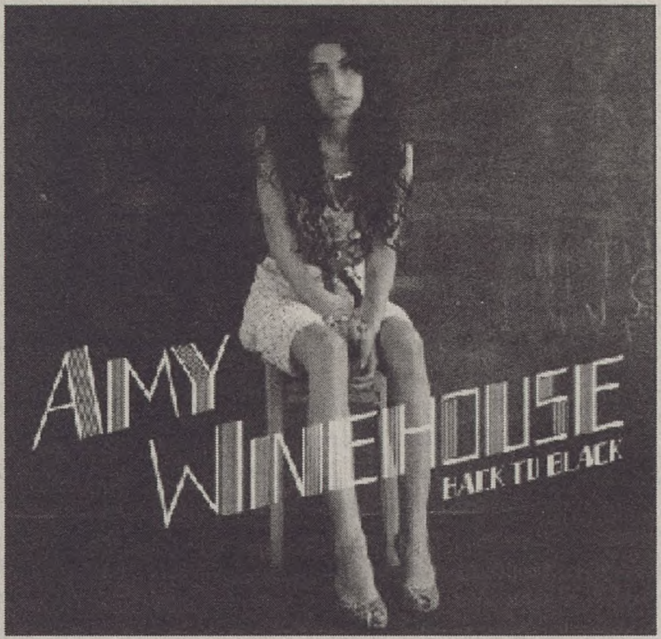
If you thought Amy Winehouse was just an overrated crackhead, you will be pleasantly surprised by "Back to Black." I was intrigued by Winehouse after she won five Grammys: Record of the Year, Song of the Year, Best New Artist, Best Female Pop Vocal Performance, and Best Pop Vocal Album.

I wanted to know if she was worth the hype or if our culture is just so fascinated with addicts that Winehouse's album, or rather the song "Rehab," won so many awards because of the release date. I must say that she deserves every award thrown her way.

"Rehab" is the first song on the album and that was a risky move. Since "Rehab" is such a hit, the album could have gone downhill. However, "Back to Black" feeds off the energy of "Rehab" and grows stronger. "Me & Mr. Jones" is the best song on the album and it is third. The first line of the first verse, "What kind of f**kery is this?" is brilliant!

"Back to Black" is a soul/R&B album about love and heartbreak, and each song tells a story. With her relaxed jazz voice, Winehouse has a way of bringing you into her situation so you can feel what she's feeling, whether it is love and joy like in "Some Unholy War" or pain as heard in "Love is a Losing Game."

Ghostface Killah makes the only guest appearance with the remix to "You Know I'm No Good." The album was fine without him, and he actually brings it down. Ghostface Killah is not exactly the best rapper, and Winehouse could have skipped this remix in its entirety. She didn't need Ghostface Killah's appearance to make her album contemporary because her voice is timeless.



"Back to Black" also has minimal samples. However, with the song samples, Winehouse was able to take notable songs and make them her own. "Tears Dry on Their Own" contains a sample from "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and the sample does not take over the song. "She's a Fox Now" is featured in "He Can Only Hold Her" and it is a wonderful song.

I recommend Amy Winehouse's "Back to Black" to anyone who enjoys a good R&B album. Winehouse delivers an amazing album. I also encourage you to get the Best Buy exclusive because it contains a DVD. The DVD features Amy Winehouse performing four songs live and an in-depth interview where she speaks of her influences and inspirations for "Back to Black." "Back to Black" is a phenomenal album that deserves every accolade.

Review: "Vantage Point" is repetitive but never boring

Todd Johnson
A&E Editor

I guess it has gotten to the point where every action movie nowadays has to have a gimmick in order to get people in the seats. We can not just have a straightforward action movie with a protagonist who unleashes unholy hell on the bad guys. Now we have to have movies that use lots of CGI, fantasy based situations, and tricky storytelling techniques. "Vantage Point" falls into this latter category.

The concept is very simple. You tell the story of an assassination attempt on the President of the United States and some related bombings from the perspective of eight different people: The President (William Hurt), two secret service agents (Matthew Fox & Dennis Quaid), a Spanish cop (Eduardo Noriega), an American tourist (Forest Whitaker), the terrorists (Edgar Ramirez & Said Taghmaoui), and a news reporter (Sigourney Weaver).

The movie starts with the perspective of the reporter, who gives us some background information, and then we see the attack. From then on, the movie will literally rewind and show us the attack from another perspective, all the while giving us a little more information about what actually happened.

The movie is very fast paced and intense. It never relents for one second as the events it is monitoring only take place for about 40 minutes at the most.

However, as with any movie with a similar premise, some of the flashbacks are not as interesting as the others. The American tourist's flashback was very silly and did not make much sense. However, it did have the best ending of all the flashbacks.

It did get a little tiring, though, when I had to see the same events replayed constantly (like the Spanish mayor's speech that happens before the shooting). Plus, though there are only two explosions in the entire movie, we see them six different times, from six different angles. The movie starts to become a little repetitive, but never boring. The rewind effect was always really cool though.

The acting was a little stilted. None of the actors gives a standout performance. Instead they feel like they are going through the motions the entire time.

The action scenes are really well-done. First, we have the actual attack itself, which is very shocking and intense the entire time. Then, there are a few foot chases that occur throughout the movie that are a lot of fun. There are several shootouts that are fun and the final major action scene is the car chase. While the chase is nothing spectacular (like the Bourne car chases), it is still entertaining and very solid.

8 STRANGERS
8 POINTS OF VIEW
1 TRUTH
DENNIS QUAID
MATTHEW FOX
FOREST WHITAKER
WITH SIGOURNEY WEAVER
AND WILLIAM HURT
VANTAGE POINT

If you can get past the repetitive gimmick for this movie, you will find a very engaging and enjoyable thriller that manages to keep you entertained for a couple of hours.

Opinion: Who is the Queen?

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Call a black woman anything as long as you don't call her a…queen!?! Well, that's the case according to Aretha Franklin.

During her introduction of Tina Turner at the Grammys, Beyoncé mentioned other great Black female entertainers like Lena Horne, Diana Ross, Nancy Wilson, and Josephine Baker. She concluded by referring to Tina Turner as the Queen.

The audience stood on its feet and clapped as Tina Turner and Beyoncé gave the best Grammy performance of the night.

However, Beyoncé's statement ruffled someone's feathers. The Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin, stated, "I am not sure of whose toes I may have stepped on or whose ego I may have bruised between the Grammy writers and Beyoncé. However, I dismissed it as a cheap shot for controversy."

Controversy? Over a word that she didn't invent? Okay.

Aretha Franklin needs to take a gigantic chill pill. She is the Queen of Soul, and Beyoncé did not call Tina Turner that. Mary J. Blige has been referred to as the Queen of Hip Hop Soul. Beyoncé did not call Tina Turner that either.

Aretha Franklin should take a seat because just as the title was given to her, it can be removed. She was not very queenly in her Grammy performance. She should have looked and sang much better than she did.

The term 'queen' has been assigned to several people. Madonna was called the Queen of Pop. Mo'Nique is a Queen of Comedy. Wendy Williams refers to herself as the Queen of all Media. Dana Owens is Queen Latifah. And there are the actual royals. The Queen of England issued no statements.

Beyonce and Tina Turner performing at the Grammys. Picture courtesy of E! News.

Simply put, this is one instance that should have had no drama. Beyoncé and Tina Turner gave a wonderful performance spanning generations. It's sad that a moment of triumph was tarnished by the insecurity of a fellow entertainer.

Queen is a word. It is a term of endearment, and people use it frequently. The fact that Aretha Franklin was offended is silly. I mean really, there are worse things that a black woman can call another black woman.

Review: Tyler Perry's "What's Done in the Dark..." DVD is more than a comedy

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Tyler Perry's new play, "What's Done in the Dark...," is great. In true Tyler Perry fashion, "What's Done in the Dark..." puts real issues into a comedic form to both entertain and inform the viewer. The messages are also laced with religion, which stays true to the Tyler Perry formula for success.

"What's Done in the Dark..." is set in a hospital and the cast deals with issues of deadbeat dads, infidelity and STDs. Get annual check-ups, eat healthy, and respect yourself are just a few of the lessons taught.

Cast favorites David and Tamela Mann are back in their notorious roles of Mr. Brown and Cora. They are the highlights of the play. They are at the hospital because Mr. Brown thinks he's dying. That storyline alone is hilarious. Cora demonstrates that she practices the lesson Madea instilled in her. Mr. Brown's outfits and hospital antics make the play funnier.

Many of the actors are new; however, there are a few familiar faces from previous plays. In many cases this was a good thing, but D'Atra Hicks' portrayal of Nurse Trudy was too over the top, loud, and silly. Nurse Trudy was the complete opposite of Hicks' character in the play, "Madea's Family Reunion." In "What's Done in the Dark..." Hicks' character came off annoying. She had few moments in the play where her personality was needed or appreciated.

The songs add to the play, but they are a double-edged sword because after the first or second viewing they become boring. The best songs, though, are the ones with Mr. Brown dancing.

Since this is a play, the audience and cast feed off each other. Shona Vincent at one point looked directly at the audience and asked, "Am I stupid?" This was done in character, but while singing Tamela Mann catches the Holy Spirit and said, "I know this is a play..." After elevating his heart rate, David Mann looked at the crowd and said, "I'm tired for real." These interactions make the play more personal.

The bonus features are hilarious. You can follow Mr. Brown and Cora shopping at a thrift store. There is also a featurette where Mr. Brown interviews the cast. The highlight is when Mr. Brown interviews David Mann.

I recommend "What's Done in the Dark..." to those who enjoy the Tyler Perry formula. This is one of his best plays without Madea. It is more than a comedy. "What's Done in the Dark..." and all other Tyler Perry plays are designed to make you a healthier, more religious, and better person.

Review: "Untraceable" provides strong, suspenseful storyline

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

What would happen if Jigsaw were a computer geek with a grudge? "Untraceable" answers this question. Diane Lane plays FBI agent Jennifer Marsh, who works the cyber crime division at night. One night she gets an anonymous tip about killwithme.com. She goes to the site and it features a streaming video of a kitten starving to death.

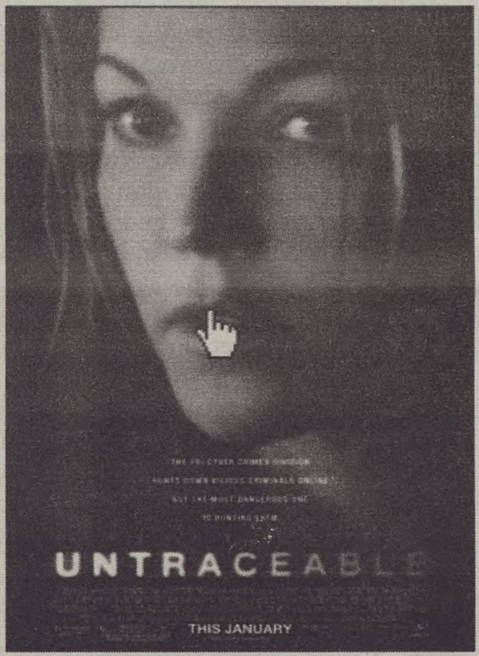
Marsh urges her superiors to aid in putting an end to the site but is met with resistance. Pretty soon the webmaster turns to human victims. The deaths correlate with the number of hits the site receives. "The more you watch, the faster he dies."

What initially seems like random selections of victims turns out to be a web leading to the killer. Marsh and her partners try to track him down, but he is seemingly always one step ahead.

The killer uses computer technology a lot. He hacks into laptops, cell phones, On Star, and TiVo, to name a few. I liked that he used these means, but that aspect made the police look idiotic at times. The killer used technology, but the police did not. They watched the site but acted as though they'd never heard of GPS. Had GPS been used the movie would have been better.

Gore would have made "Untraceable" better as well. This was more of a suspenseful movie than horror, but less chasing and more development of death scenes would have been better. After the killer was identified, the movie seemed rushed and became very predictable.

Diane Lane does a wonderful job portraying Jennifer Marsh. "Untraceable" was all in all a good movie that I recommend to those who enjoy a good storyline.



"Marriage of Figaro" comes to Shreveport Opera

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

This Saturday, March 1, the Shreveport Opera will present its production of "The Marriage of Figaro," an opera by Mozart that is regarded by many as one of the most important in history. The work is also listed by Opera America as the sixth most-performed opera in America.

"The Marriage of Figaro" traditionally takes place over one day in the palace of Count Almaviva in Seville, Spain, and tells the story of a web of twisted identities and love stories that all converge comically at the end of the last act. The Shreveport production, led by Director Bill Fabris, will put a new spin on the piece, bringing it from eighteenth century Spain to a postmodern twentieth century hotel.

According to a Tuesday Shreveport Times article, the opera is very nuanced, and first-time listeners would do well to pay close attention to the music. Composer Andrew Bisantz noted that, "There are moments when a character from a lower class is talking to a person from a higher class. Mozart deliberately uses the bassoons to represent the lower character, even if it's a higher vocal part, and will use a flute or an oboe for the higher class character."

With such a classically beautiful, nuanced work coming to Shreveport, attendees should be in for a treat. "The Marriage of Figaro" will be held at the Riverview Theater and starts at 7:30 p.m. Reservations can be made through the theater's box office at (318) 227-9503.

The Marriage of Figaro

'Focus Gallery' at Meadows Museum features Louisiana artists

Amanda Russell
Staff Writer

Meadows Museum announced in January that six contemporary working Louisiana artists will be featured in "Focus Gallery: Louisiana Artists at the Crossroads" at the Meadows Museum of Art at Centenary College. The exhibit will be featured at the Museum until April 14. The six artists of the exhibit, representing diverse perceptions and experiences of African American culture, include painter Marcus Akinlana, photographer Gus Bennett, Jr., sculptor Sheleen Jones-Adenle, painter Frank Kelley, Jr., painter Jamar Pierre, and sculptor Phoenix Savage.

The Crossroads Arts Collective was created by Leia Lewis of Shreveport and Paul Evans of Durham, North Carolina, as a coalition of African-American artists and arts professionals in their 20s and 30s. The Crossroads Collection attempts to explore the "contemporary young/southern/black experience." The Crossroads collection is defined by revision, rebirth, and reconstruction. The collection is a cultural revival that bears witness to what we know about community, identity, and expression.

If you go to the exhibit, proceed to the second floor of Meadows to the Focus gallery. You can start your experience with any piece in the gallery. Because there are various artists represented, the collection is held together by its theme: community and culture.

The first thing one will notice in the middle of the gallery is a pair of "legs" created by bronze railroad spikes with a pair of bronze feet at the base. This is Phoenix Savage's mixed media sculpture "John Henry's Legs." John Henry is an American folk hero, most notable for outlasting a steam power hammer laying railroad tracks. The power and dedication of John Henry is memorialized in the spikes. The spikes, vertically connected one to the other, create a powerful and moving image. Phoenix creates more memorable images with her piece "Gilded Slave in a Box." This piece can best be described as a longer vertical shelf with approximately twelve small boxes with little bronze figures. These figures have no faces or clear shape. They are lumpy and surrounded by grass straw. Taken separately, these items are plain. But combined, I got the sense of what it may have felt like to be a slave – a faceless, shapeless nothingness of a life captured in a confined space surrounded by trash.

Gus Bennett, Jr. depicts the everyday person within the context of a community with his digital photography combined with organic material from the subject's environment: leaves, stone, mud, etc. His sessions usually occur on the subject's porch. Bennett's ability to capture the essence of person is particularly remarkable. His photo "Tyari" depicts a young African-American male all dolled up in a monogrammed suit holding a remembrance notice of a family member. The uncertainty, youthfulness, and naivety are clearly captured on Tyari's face and in his body language.

Marcus Akinlana's mural canvas paintings of "Ogun" and "Osoosi" are colorful and full of brushstrokes, creating a hurried sense of urgency. Akinlana depicts traditional African spiritual forces to remind us that the spirit world is ever protecting, guiding, and inspiring one to greatness. Akinlana's depictions, while moving, fell short of this goal. The combination of colors and the close presence of the art characters in the frame of reference to the viewer create a sense of equality, not of higher spirituality.

Shelene Jones-Adenle's tall, thin bronze sculptures, including "Jazz" and "High Rise," represent individuals that make up community and the enduring nature of family, civic, and social relations. The treatment of the bronze gave the sculptures a dark color that to me invoked a sense of finality instead of a sense of endurance. The construction of the sculptures also created an urban, industrial feeling instead of a social, communal sense of connectivity.

Frank Kelly's paintings deal with faces of a community. These painting are more traditional. Kelly uses traditional lines combined with bright, but slightly more subdued colors. In "Women of Mali," Kelly depicts a West African working woman. He creates her face in such a way that she could easily be someone the viewer knows personally or a modern westernized woman about to hop on the metro to run off to work at the office. The sense of connectivity to one's work, passion, and family are readily understandable in Kelly's works.

Jamar Pierre's paintings are probably my favorite of the collection. Pierre reconstructs the rich culture of New Orleans and the community that is defined by music, dance, food, and art. Pierre's style is marked by a combination of bright colors with solid, but at times fluid lines. It can best be described as post-realism. At times, Pierre's paintings border on impressionism, but then a sneaky line slips into the frame and reminds the viewer that these images are more than impressions. Pierre's "Faces of Katrina" depicts a host of characters of various ethnicities, classes, and culture that make New Orleans unique. Pierre uses black paint to outline the faces. The black paint somehow pops right off the campus, seeming bright instead of dark and gloomy. The black also makes the reds, yellows, and greens of the campus stand out, much like New Orleans stands out in the South. The painting evokes a sense of loss and sacrifice, but there are also elements of hope. It is truly inspirational. In "Blowing Out the Past" Pierre uses Louis Armstrong and his trumpet to lead the host of other images in the painting to teach the viewer about the rich vivaciousness of New Orleans. Bright red, orange, and blue paints combined with fluid and bending lines create a sense of happiness and fulfillment.

Overall, the Meadows exhibit leaves its viewers with a better sense of what it means to be at the crossroads of a culture, what it means to connected to a community, and how the past affects the future. All of the artists are to be commended for their rich and vibrant works and their contributions to Louisiana's artistic community.

The Meadows Museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from noon until 4 p.m.; Thursday from noon until 5 p.m.; and 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information call (318) 869-5169.

WHAT	"Focus Gallery: Louisiana Artists at the Crossroads."
WHERE	Meadows Museum of Art at Centenary College 2911 Centenary Blvd., Shreveport.
UPCOMING EVENTS	
All will be held at the museum, are free and will include refreshments.	
2-3 p.m. Feb. 17	Artists reception and forum facilitated by exhibition curator Kara Olidge.
9:30 a.m.-noon. Feb. 18	Docent training with Kara Olidge.
2-3 p.m. Feb. 18	Artists' Circle with Phoenix Savage, Sheleen Jones, Frank Kelley Jr. and Jamar Pierre.
2-3 p.m. April 6	Lecture by artist Gus Bennett.
2-3 p.m. April 7	Artists' Circle with Gus Bennett
2-3 p.m. April 13	Lecture by Marcus Akinlana
2-3 p.m. April 14	Artists Circle with Marcus Akinlana.
REGULAR HOURS	noon-4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday noon-5 p.m. Thursday 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
INFORMATION	Call 318-869-5169
COST	Free and open to the public

DVD review: Beyonce presents unforgettable performance

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Ladies and Gentlemen: Are you ready to be entertained?

"The Beyoncé Experience Live" is a wonderful DVD that shows why Beyoncé has been called the best of our time and the best at what she does. Packed with over two hours of nonstop singing and dancing, this DVD is a must-have for the Beyoncé fan in all of us.

The songs span over ten years. Beyoncé performs songs from both of her solo albums, many of Destiny's Child's number one hits, and the movie "Dreamgirls." The tempo of the concert is great.

She starts with high energy, performing "Crazy in Love," and continues with other up-tempo songs. She then switches to slow songs like "Dangerously in Love" and "Flaws and All." She does a Destiny's Child medley in the middle, with special guests Kelly and Michelle. The energy is high again with songs like "Ring the Alarm" and "Upgrade U," which she performs with Jay-Z. The tempo then slows down with "Deena/Dreamgirls" before concluding with "Irreplaceable." Beyoncé performs over thirty songs.

"The Beyoncé Experience" is not your average concert. Beyoncé does more than just sing songs off her albums. She performs them! She incorporates various musical styles into her performances. "Crazy in Love" features the Gnarls Barkley hit "Crazy" rather than Jay-Z's rapping. "Baby Boy's" performance incorporates reggae in the song "Murder He Wrote." Ballet is fused with the ballad "Dangerously in Love," and at the end of the song, Beyoncé sings a portion of Jill Scott's "He Loves Me."

Beyoncé cranks that Soulja boy before performing "Soldier." In true H-Town fashion, "Bug a Boo" is chopped and screwed. There is a special tour version of "Check on It," and the "Ring the Alarm" intro skit is reminiscent of "Cell Block Tango" in the movie "Chicago."

Every element of "The Beyoncé Experience," from the all-female band who each get their time to shine, to the backup dancers who show how to "Throw Some D's" on a grown man, to the plus-sized background singers who Beyoncé refers to as the sexiest women on the stage, to Beyoncé herself, come together to create an amazing show.

Even the inanimate objects like the lights, stage and stairs make the concert unforgettable. Energy is one of the best things of the concert. The high energy causes the audience and performers to act as a cohesive unit.

Beyoncé is no stranger to fashion and "The Beyoncé Experience's" wardrobe reflects that. Beyoncé has eight completely different outfits and three times when she simply removes a jacket or tears off the bottom of a dress to reveal a shorter dress. Her outfits are all in bold colors that demand attention. They blend well with the songs. Beyoncé performs "Ring the Alarm" in a red jacket, while "Deena/Dreamgirls" is sung in a soft silver dress.

I recommend "The Beyoncé Experience Live" to everyone. If you are a fan of Beyoncé, you will become a larger one. If you are not a fan of Beyoncé's, you will become one. This concert shows why Beyoncé has been called the Queen. Though there is no such thing as perfection, "The Beyoncé Experience Live" is as close to a perfect concert as one can get.

Rockers duke it out to be crowned World Champion…of the Air Guitar

Beth Craft
Staff Writer

Screaming fans, music pounding the speakers, that first strum of the guitar that brings on the mosh-pit… sounds like the concert of any rock group. But, alas, it is not. It is simply the World Air Guitar Championships held annually in Finland.

Who ever thought that jumping up and down and strumming air would ever get anyone anywhere? But it does.

Every year since 1996, thousands of fans flood Oulu, Finland, to watch air guitarists duke it out for the world title. The Air Guitar World Championship Network exists in 17 countries, including the United States, Canada, Germany, and Japan.

Before coming to Finland to battle for Air Guitar World Champion, contestants must battle at the national competition in their home country.

Contestants are expected to prepare a one-minute song complete with costume and routine (no real guitars allowed).

Different Schools of Air Guitar exist, each with its own ideas and ways of thought. The "Artistic Airdeology," for example, takes a very philosophical approach to playing the air guitar.

Air "philosophists" consider playing the air guitar a form of meditation. It's "letting yourself go with the flow in front of thousands cheering" to "beat your fears and finally free your mind."

"Pure Air Rock-n-Roll" is all about the "Real." Technicality counts. And so does the realness of the playing.

"Air Extravaganza" makes sure to incorporate glam and snazzy costumes, all while maintaining stage presence.

Finally, the "Futur d'Air" school of air guitar combines crazy moves that are not necessarily rock-related with the playing of the air guitar.

As absurd as all of this sounds, every bit is true. Rockers jam to real tunes while playing invisible instruments, hoping to be crowned Air Guitar World Champion. Just a thought-is the crown made of air too?

To check out the competition, browse pictures and videos of the competition, or to register, visit www.airguitarworldchampionships.com.

CAB presents
Spring Fling 2008:"All You Need Is Love"

Monday, March 3:
Singing Comedian Johnny Walker:
"While My Guitar Gently... Laughs?"
Presented by CAB and the RAs
8 pm in Anderson Auditorium

Tuesday, March 4:
Derek James and the Lovely Fools:
"Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band
Presented by CAB and KSCL
8 pm in the Shell (Anderson if it rains)

Wednesday, March 5:
Build-A-Bear:"I Am the Walrus Bear"
Presented by CAB and The Wilderness Club
12:30pm-1:30pm in the SUB

Movie Night:"Across the Universe"
Presented by CAB and the
Centenary Film Society
Whited Room @ 7pm
FREE FOOD!!!!

Thursday, March 6:
The Annual Miss-ter Centenary Pageant:
"I Wanna Be Your (Wo)Man"
Presented by CAB and Outreach
7 pm in the Shell (Kilpatrick if it rains)

Friday, March 7:
Casino Night: "Can't Buy Me Love"
Presented by CAB, RHA, and SGA
9 pm in Kilpatrick
$1000 in prizes!!!

Free T-shirts at all events!

Love,
CAB

CAB
Centenary Activities Board

You're a good play, "Charlie Brown"

Todd Johnson
A&E Editor

Seeing the new MLP play, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," was an odyssey in itself. I had to fight through rain, mud, wind, and hundreds of little kids to see the play. It was also a two-day battle to see the play. So, after all the trouble I went through to see the play, was it worth it?

The answer is a resounding yes. As a long-time Peanuts fan and someone who never misses the Charlie Brown holiday specials every year, I was afraid that this play would tarnish my memories of the Peanuts gang for a long time to come. However, I was very, very wrong.

It is obvious that the cast wanted to make a fun and enjoyable musical with plenty of comedic moments and a sense of what it is like to be a little kid who just happens to talk like an adult sometimes.

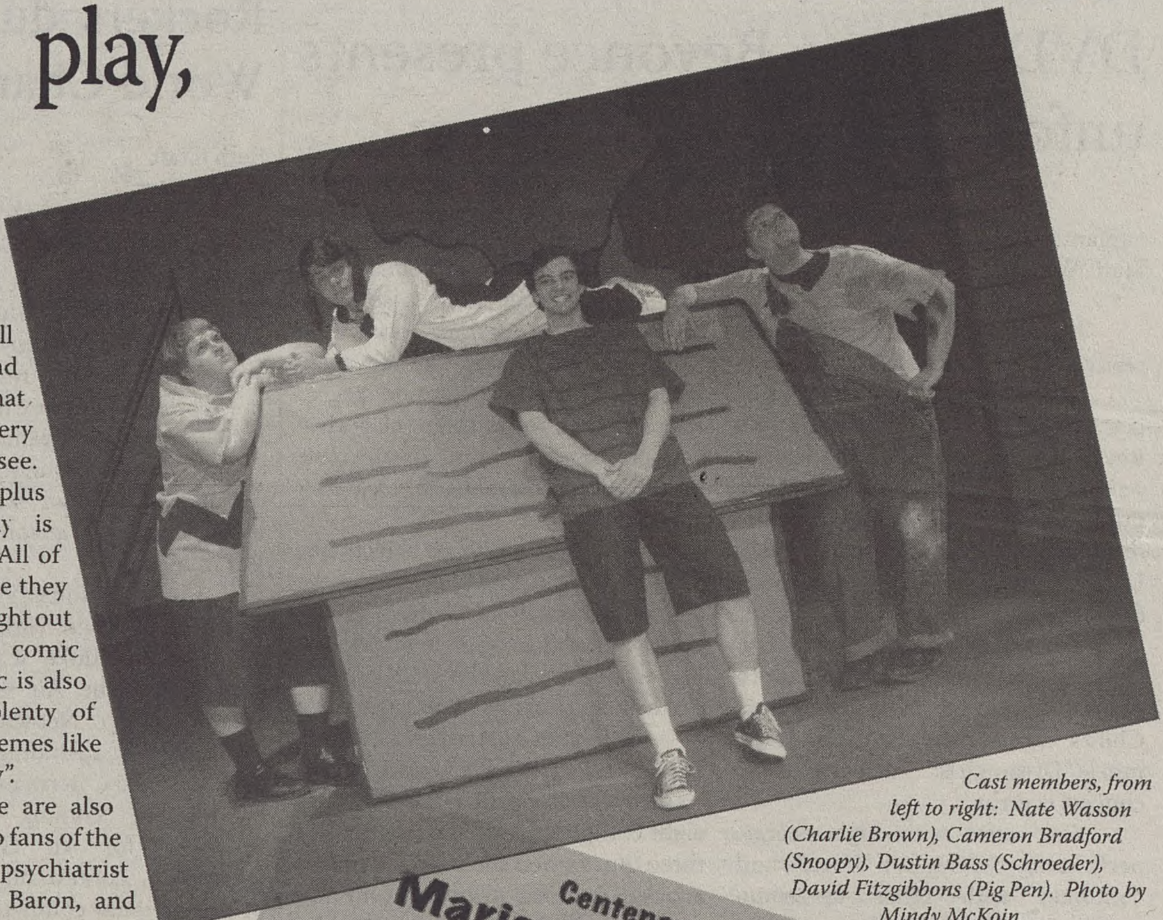
Every performer gives a great performance, but the standouts are Rachel Havird as Lucy Van Pelt, Cameron Bradford as Snoopy, and Nate Wasson as Charlie Brown. Havird and Bradford both realize that they have the two most fun characters in the story and milk it for everything it is worth. Havird brings out the crabby, unpleasant side of Lucy without losing the comedic charm and Bradford makes Snoopy the cool customer that he always is. Wasson, however, brings the heart to this play as Charlie Brown. He has fun with the comedic moments and gives the slightly more dramatic moments the weight they need.

As this play is a musical, it is only as good as its musical numbers and singing. I am glad to say that this is all very well-done too. While some of the performers are not the greatest singers, they more than make up for it with their enthusiasm. Plus, there are some truly fun songs, like "Snoopy," "My Blanket and Me," "The Doctor is In," Beethoven Day," and "Suppertime." Most of the numbers are full of dancing and goofiness that make them very entertaining to see.

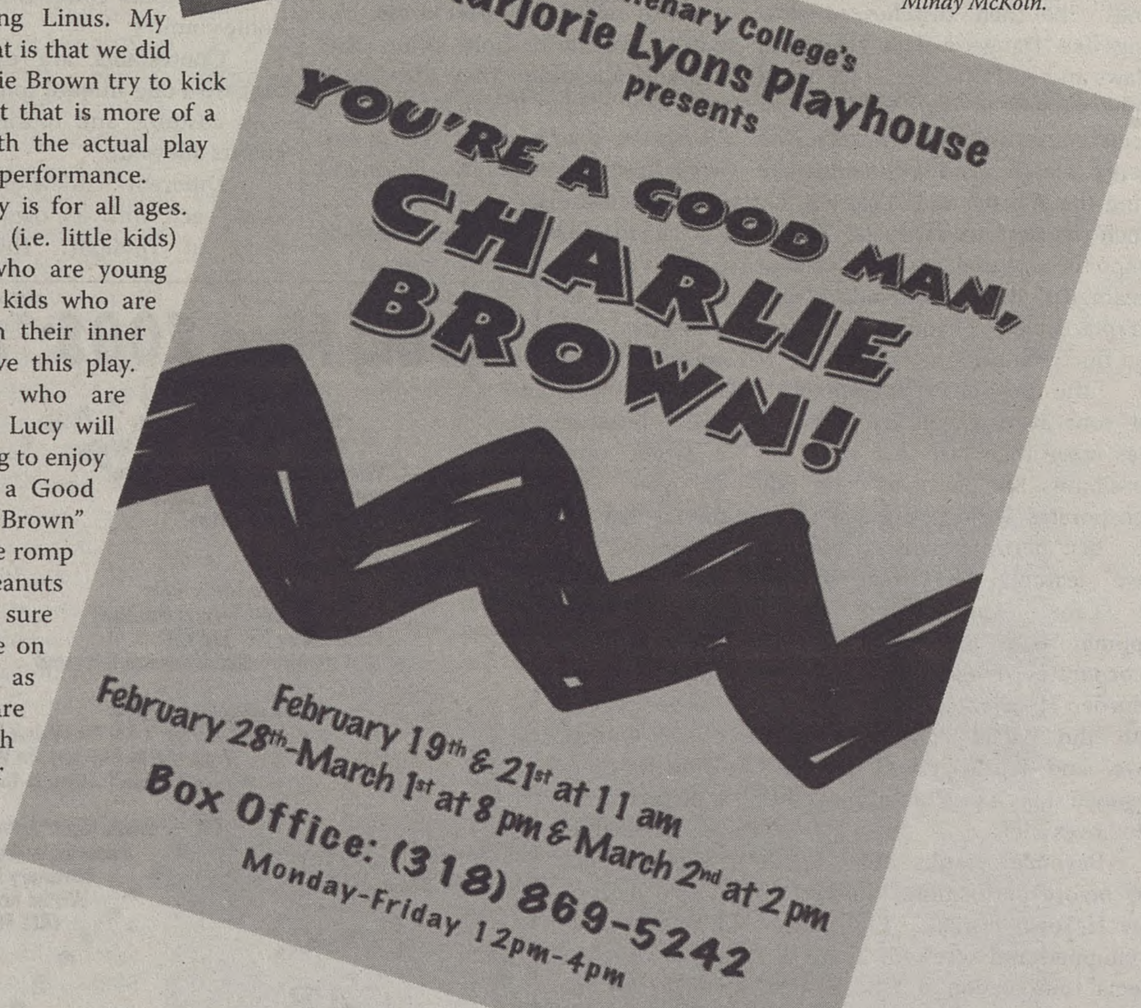
Another plus about the play is the set design. All of the sets look like they were taken straight out of the Peanuts comic strip. The music is also terrific, with plenty of recognizable themes like "Linus and Lucy".

Plus, there are also plenty of nods to fans of the series like the psychiatrist stand, the Red Baron, and Lucy punching Linus. My only complaint is that we did not see Charlie Brown try to kick a football. But that is more of a complaint with the actual play than with the performance.

This play is for all ages. Young people (i.e. little kids) and people who are young at heart (i.e. kids who are in touch with their inner child) will love this play. Even people who are crabbier than Lucy will find something to enjoy here. "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" is an enjoyable romp with the Peanuts gang that is sure to put a smile on anyone's face, as long as you are in touch with your inner child.



Cast members, from left to right: Nate Wasson (Charlie Brown), Cameron Bradford (Snoopy), Dustin Bass (Schroeder), David Fitzgibbons (Pig Pen). Photo by Mindy McKoin.



Centenary College's
Marjorie Lyons Playhouse
presents
YOU'RE A GOOD MAN,
CHARLIE
BROWN!

February 19th & 21st at 11 am
February 28th-March 1st at 8 pm & March 2nd at 2 pm
Box Office: (318) 869-5242
Monday-Friday 12pm-4pm

SPORTS

Homecoming loss for men's basketball team leaves fans wondering, "what's next?"

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

The scenario couldn't have been set up any more perfectly. As the clock ticked to zero, the Centenary Gentlemen found themselves in a tie, forcing them into overtime. Not exactly what we wanted, but the excitement of it being a huge game with a packed stadium made the tension of the stands flare as the beginning of overtime started. The boys darted onto court, and as quick as they got out there they were slowly beginning to fade into nothingness. The Gents scored five points (which included Nick Stallings' beautiful 3-point shot at the buzzer) in extra minutes of play while the Kangaroos of UMKC dropped 14 to seal the victory and the terribly upsetting defeat. This marks the ninth straight loss for Centenary in their games this season, completely stumping the home crowd after huge pre-conference games over Texas Tech, Louisiana Tech, Northwestern, and a huge upset to fellow conference team IUPUI in Shreveport.

I believe it's now time for the Centenary community and all basketball fans to ask the question: "What's next?" What is the cause of these painful, close-to-wining defeats? This being my personal article to voice my opinion, of which I am a loyal, excited sports supporter of this college, I feel right to point a lot of the blame at the coaches - in particular, Coach Flaska.

I remember driving three hours my freshman year to see the Gents play in downtown Austin against the University of Texas Longhorns. Being one of the two or three dozen students and family members from the area, I was shocked to see such huge differences between both teams. Now, of course, UT has a little more "street-cred" and most likely a bit more money towards scholarships to bring some of the best kids in the country together to play on a powerhouse team, but that wasn't the point of what I actually could see on the court. The camaraderie and spirit the Longhorn athletes had on the court simply blew away the Gents. After a shooting foul, for example, the UT players gathered together, collected thoughts, encouraged each other, and composed themselves for the next action on the court. The Gents, however, were being yelled at by the head coach, running all over the place, trying to find their places, and lacked complete organization. It was pitiful. Even only losing by ten points, the Centenary fans could feel the difference in team preparation and see the once again defeated players' body language as they walked off the court.

I hope that as you read examples like this it reminds you of other incidents where you've seen this whole team disorganization that the basketball team has. I honestly haven't met a basketball player that wasn't friendly and didn't want to talk about basketball and other sports. But the minute I bring up the Gents and how the season is going for them, a hesitant look falls over their faces and the thought of playing another game under the direction of their coach seems like a creeping fear that has always been lurking around. You've seen the basketball players who have left in the past years. To my regret, more players will come and go due to their attitudes toward athletic administration and coaches. So what's next, Centenary? Do we let this continue another season? It's in our hands; the shot is ours. Stand up for what you believe in.

The Conglomerate presents: Life of a Student Athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

Hey Centenary softball fans! I come at you a little more inspirational this week as we finished up another weekend of softball. Coming off an impressive outing against #7 Baylor a few weekends ago, we set out to face in-state rival Louisiana Tech last Wednesday for our first middle-of-the-week game.

Like many of you already know, we have had to face quite a bit of adversity this season, battling injuries and family issues. Heading into the La Tech game, we knew what a win would mean after having played so many BCS schools.

We had an amazing pitching performance by sophomore Ryan Thacker. She was able to hold the Lady Techsters to only three hits, while striking out six batters in her first complete game shutout of the season. Ryan has continued to work hard on the mound for us and has been able to pick up three wins thus far.

Offensively, we worked to improve our at-bats and find a way to score runs by putting the ball in play. Haley Bassett's double, Amy Wiedeman's infield single, and my two singles and a double were the only hits for us. However, several key at-bats from other people, along with Leslie Postles' speed as a pinch runner gave us a 3-0 advantage in the top of the seventh inning. We were able to hold onto the lead in the bottom half of the inning; taking our second win.

We arrived in Houston for an early 9 a.m. game against Texas State and a 1 p.m. game against Big 12 Kansas. Throughout the day, we struggled to plate runners dropping game one, 2-0 and game two, 4-0.

Even though we lost both games, we seem to realize that we are in control of how we play. A lot of times, it is hard to accept that we should have taken advantage of certain opportunities during each of those games keeping us from ending the day scoreless.

On day two in Houston we came out swinging the bats against Cal-State Northridge, plating four runs in the first inning. Unfortunately, we weren't able to hang on to the early lead, losing a 9-8 heartbreaker. The team was sparked by a solid performance from senior Lauren Flowers' grand slam. Flowers and freshman Caitlin Cavarra both finished the game 3-for-4 at the plate.

Against Houston, we seem to always battle their home field advantages, obnoxious fans, and a little controversy. With little fight in us, after experiencing a let down against Cal-State Northridge, we came out ready to play. Sophomore Brittany Williams was able to connect on her first homerun of the season and the only run we scored. The game was overall a solid performance on most parts, though hit balls just couldn't seem to find holes in the field. It ended in a 7-1 loss, though we left not completely disappointed.

Knowing little to nothing about Boston University we came out with nothing to lose. With a few early chances of scoring we let slip away, we bounced back with an impressive third inning with seven runs on five hits—led by senior Amy Wiedeman's three run homerun over the bus parked behind right field's fence. The game ended in our favor 7-4. Again, Ryan Thacker got the win on the mound striking out seven BU batters while allowing only two earned runs.

I wanted to congratulate Ryan on the Summit League Pitcher of the Week honor going 2-0 with a save in five appearances this past week. Well deserved!

WORD SEARCH:
PLACES ON CAMPUS

S	C	P	H	F	R	E	N	R	U	T	Z	X	R	N	Z	Z
E	S	F	E	Y	E	L	R	U	H	F	Q	U	A	D	B	Y
M	H	O	F	E	S	Y	S	C	A	K	W	Z	G	Q	R	M
A	E	C	N	M	M	E	M	O	D	D	L	O	G	A	N	I
J	L	I	I	T	L	E	L	A	G	A	M	A	T	P	Z	C
Y	L	T	S	D	P	U	H	H	X	V	E	O	X	A	A	K
C	H	F	N	R	O	U	H	F	K	W	R	N	O	L	P	L
D	T	A	H	O	O	D	E	N	P	K	K	P	S	I	M	E
I	R	S	N	O	Y	L	E	I	R	O	J	R	A	M	P	K
C	I	E	W	L	X	D	J	N	I	D	R	A	H	G	T	X
L	J	A	M	E	A	D	O	W	S	T	T	C	M	K	K	C
D	S	B	K	I	L	P	A	T	R	I	C	K	D	G	M	E
O	J	D	G	D	W	R	I	G	H	T	O	W	S	N	K	Q
M	H	A	M	I	L	T	O	N	N	S	N	O	T	X	E	S
U	H	E	B	V	V	Y	H	K	A	E	R	U	R	U	S	S
C	X	V	Y	I	Q	L	N	J	A	C	K	S	O	N	L	W
D	V	D	J	Y	Y	X	Q	N	O	S	R	E	D	N	A	G

Anderson - Cline - Gold Dome - Hamilton - Hardin - Hurley
Jackson - James - Kilpatrick - Magale - Marjorie Lyons
Meadows - Mickle - Quad - Randles - Rotary - Sexton - Shell
Smith - Turner - Wright

Horoscopes

Pisces (2/20-3/20) You are feeling slightly stressed, but don't worry about it too much. If you fail out, you'll just have to pay off those loans that much sooner. Feel better?

Aries (3/21-4/20) Since Mars is in the shadow of Afghanistan, every flower you come across will be plotting a very pollen-filled assault.

Taurus (4/21-5/21) I flipped a coin, this is the week you fail miserably. Sorry, the fates decided it, not me.

Gemini (5/22- 6/21) The moon last night was stuck behind a cloud, so today you will find yourself stuck behind something, most likely something really smelly.

Cancer (6/22-7/23) A squirrel informed me that you are very cruel; I shun you.

Leo (7/24-8/23) I saw a face in a tree the other morning, that means you have a face. Enjoy it.

Virgo (8/24-9/23) Avoid bright colors like navy and eggplant.

Libra (9/24) A leaf flew over my arm and under my foot, this means you are going to suffer greatly, but you will find a penny sometime later today. Good luck!

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) Last I heard Venus and Jupiter were conspiring against Saturn, so you will have a lovely day.

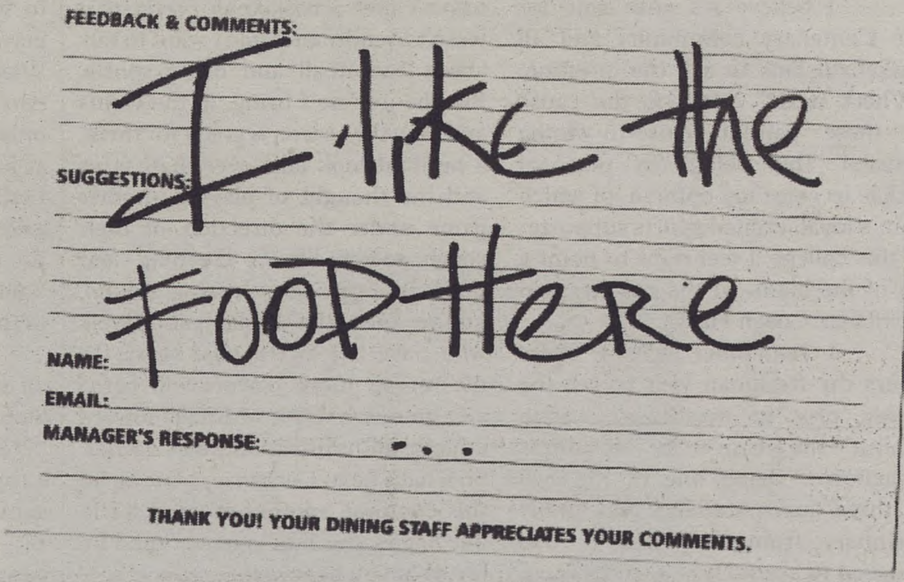
Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) Find a leaf and a nut of some sort. Don't eat them.

Capricorn (12/22-1/20) The earth loves you. Love it back.

Aquarius (1/21-2/19) Another frolic down memory lane remind you of the troubles you have ahead? Chill out, take a deep breath, and remember history doesn't always repeat itself; it usually gets exponentially worse.

Centenary Secrets

In order to participate, take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box 786 or slip it under the Conglomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.



FEEDBACK & COMMENTS:

I like the

SUGGESTIONS:

FOOD Here

NAME:

EMAIL:

MANAGER'S RESPONSE: ...

THANK YOU! YOUR DINING STAFF APPRECIATES YOUR COMMENTS.

Ups and Downs

↑ **Camerata**
For putting on an amazing and heartwarming concert.

↑ **Tinseltown**
For providing Shreveport with alternatives to mainstream movies.

↑ **Enrollment Management Committee**
For seeking the opinions of students about the quality of Centenary.

↓ **Centenary Administration**
For the disastrous mishandling of reconstruction on the second floor of the library which was damaged two years ago.

↓ **Morning Call**
For a fifth-grader level display of the contents of the time capsule.

↓ **Philosophy Forum**
For presenting a topic that is less interesting than past years and a lackluster part one.

Centenary Area Concert Wire

Feb. 29, Friday
Michael Buble
8 PM
CenturyTel Center
Bossier City, LA
$47-$77
www.centurytelcenter.com/index.php?src=directory&view=events&srctype=display&refno=14544&category=Featured%20Events
www.michaelbuble.com/

Mar. 1, Saturday
Three Days Grace
Breaking Bejmanin
Seether
7 PM
CenturyTel Center
Bossier City, LA
$35
www.centurytelcenter.com/index.php?src=directory&view=events&srctype=display&refno=14728&category=Featured%20Events
http://www.threedaysgrace.com/
http://www.shallowbay.com/
http://www.seether.com/

Mar. 2, Sunday
Doug & Telisha Williams
Fairfield Studios
Shreveport, LA
$20 forced donation ;)
www.traderootmusic.com/artists.html#Williams
www.dandtw.com/
www.fairfieldstudios.com/houseconcerts.html

Mar. 2, Sunday
Keith Urban
Carrie Underwood
7:30 PM
CenturyTel Center
Bossier City, LA
$50-$70
www.centurytelcenter.com/index.php?src=directory&view=events&srctype=display&refno=14691&category=Featured%20Events

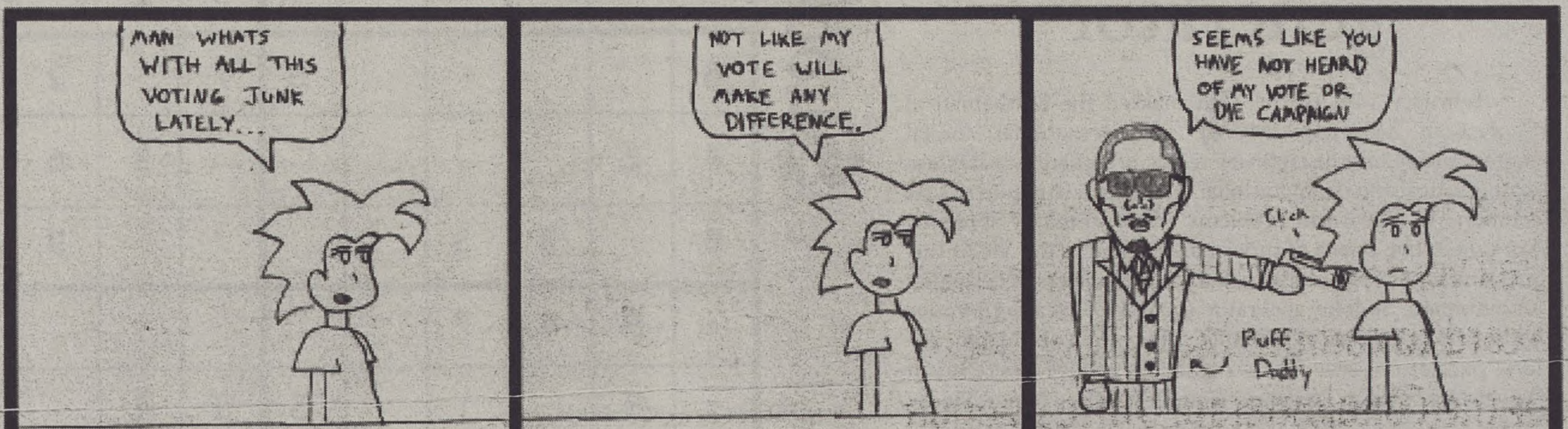
Mar. 8, Saturday
Ryan Davis Band
9:30 PM
Ole Fort Pub
Natchitoches, LA
www.ryandavismusic.com

Mar. 8, Saturday
Billy Joe Shaver
Heather Little
Doors @ 7, Show @ 7:30 PM
Crossroads Coffehouse
Winnsboro, TX (~2 hours away)
$25 advance
www.billyjoeshaver.com/
www.myspace.com/heathermarielittle
www.crossroadsmusiccompany.com/

Mar. 8, Saturday
Roger Creager
11 PM
Gilley's
Dallas, TX
$10 Gen. Adm.
FREE entry from 6-8 PM
http://www.rogercreager.com/
http://www.gilleysdallas.com/

A Day with Christ

by Chris Christ


MAN WHATS WITH ALL THIS VOTING JUNK LATELY...
NOT LIKE MY VOTE WILL MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.
SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVE NOT HEARD OF MY VOTE OR DIE CAMPAIGN
Click
Puff Daddy

Students can voice real opinions about Centenary online

Satisfaction survey is confidential and seeks to improve retention

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Students unhappy with Student Life, Residence Life, their professors, or any other aspect of the Centenary experience now have a forum through which to officially register their complaints: the Student Satisfaction Survey. And take note – the administration is taking this survey seriously.

The survey, spearheaded by the Enrollment Management Committee and sent out to students on Wednesday the 27, will be up until March 14. Completing it takes approximately 15 to 20 minutes and, quite apart from being given a voice in campus life, students who take the survey also have a chance to win one of four $100 gift certificates (to a store or restaurant of the winner's choice).

That's not even the best incentive, however – if 50% or more of Centenary students complete the survey, the committee will hold a town hall-style meeting (similar to a convocation or a forum, but more open) before the end of the spring semester. "If we have high enough participation, showing that the information and results are representative of the student body, then this will be an open invitation to come and get a result," said Dr. Meg Webber, Co-Director of the Academic Resource Center for Students and committee member.

The committee is composed of faculty and staff members and one official student member (see end of article for complete list of names). "One of our goals is to look at student retention and try to improve it," said Webber. "We tie [retention] with student satisfaction, so we decided as a committee to focus on a more systematic approach to collect information." The members looked at different companies that could assist with "proven survey instruments" and finally decided on Noel-Levitz, a provider that has done this for several other schools.

"One of the things that we like about [the Noel-Levitz] tool is that it asks two questions about everything – one, what do you think of this, and two, how critical is this to your satisfaction," said Webber.

Again, sufficiently high student participation is key to affecting change on this campus. The committee wants to create action plans out of the survey; if the town hall meeting happens this spring, students returning in the fall can expect to see "the conversation continue," according to Webber. "The hope is that we'll see findings in the spring, hear the action plans in the fall, and throughout the year, hear how these improvements are going," she said.

Such improvements will include student life, residence life, admissions, advertising, campus safety, campus diversity, and academic advisors. Though the Noel-Levitz survey has been used at other colleges, the committee was able to customize certain questions, by giving specific names and locations (i.e. Cline, James).

Webber's final statement was one of excitement, which will hopefully be reflected in all students seeking real change. "Sometimes you have a handful of people complaining about the issues important to them, and other students are not being heard," she said. "This is an equal playing field. Everyone has a stake in it – underclassmen can see change happening in the future, and seniors can give more value to the degree they're about to earn.

"I think this is really exciting because it's a comprehensive survey. It's not looking at any one aspect, it's professional, it's been used at other schools, it's confidential, the administration is supporting this survey…we're working to really address what the issues are, but we need the students to tell us what those are."

The 2007-2008 Enrollment Management Committee is: Chair Dr. Joshua Lawrence (for Natural Sciences), Ex-Officio Dr. Darrel Colson (Provost), Dr. David Havird (for Humanities), Dr. Amy Hammond (for Social Sciences), Tim Crowley (Dean of Admissions), Golda Young (Associate Registrar), Lori Bradshaw (Dean of Student Life), Mary Sue Rix (Director of Financial Aid), Dr. Meg Webber (Co-Director of the Academic Resource Center for Students), Dr. Kim VanHoosier-Carey (Co-Director of ARCS), and Adam Philley (for students).

Any questions about the survey can be directed to Joshua Lawrence at jlawrenc@centenary.edu or Meg Webber at mwebber@centenary.edu.

Math students create Sudoku generator

February 14th to the 18th marked the Mathematical Contest in Modeling (MCM), an international annual contest where interdisciplinary teams of undergraduates use mathematical and computational modeling techniques to find solutions to real-world problems. Six Centenary students, working in two teams of three, participated in the MCM this year, and both teams chose to tackle the challenge of designing an automatic Sudoku generator capable of creating puzzles with varying degrees of difficulty. This is one of the difficult-level puzzles created. The six students involved were Justin Bailey, Nolan Baker, Matthew Chumley, Jeffrey James, Stacey Stokes and Roland Womack, advised by Dr. Mark Goadrich.

Sudoku

1	4	7				3		8
	5	8	6		3		9	
					1	5	2	
6					8	7		2
4	2			1			3	6
8		3	5					9
	9	4	7					
	8		1		5	9	4	
3		1				2	7	5

The CONGLOMERATE

March 7, 2008 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 20

Debate over student fees intensifies

Students inquire as to where and how fees are allocated - and why

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Students pay $140 each semester that goes to student activities – but for the first time in a few years, discussion has opened over where those fees are allocated.

The hard numbers are below, given by Leslie Cothren, Director of Student Involvement. KSCL Manager Jon Schleuss presented these figures to the Student Government Association on Tuesday night as part of his media update for the radio station. His primary point was that the expansion of the station (which includes a significantly greater broadcasting area and an increase in listenership) requires the station to have a bigger budget; however, as student enrollment has actually dropped in the last few semesters, total student fees have dropped – meaning each organization gets a smaller piece of the pie.

Schleuss proposed that the allocation of student fees be reviewed by SGA and all relevant parties (media heads, organization heads, interested students) for the next year. His specific suggestions included having all leaders submit minimum and optimal budgets for operation.

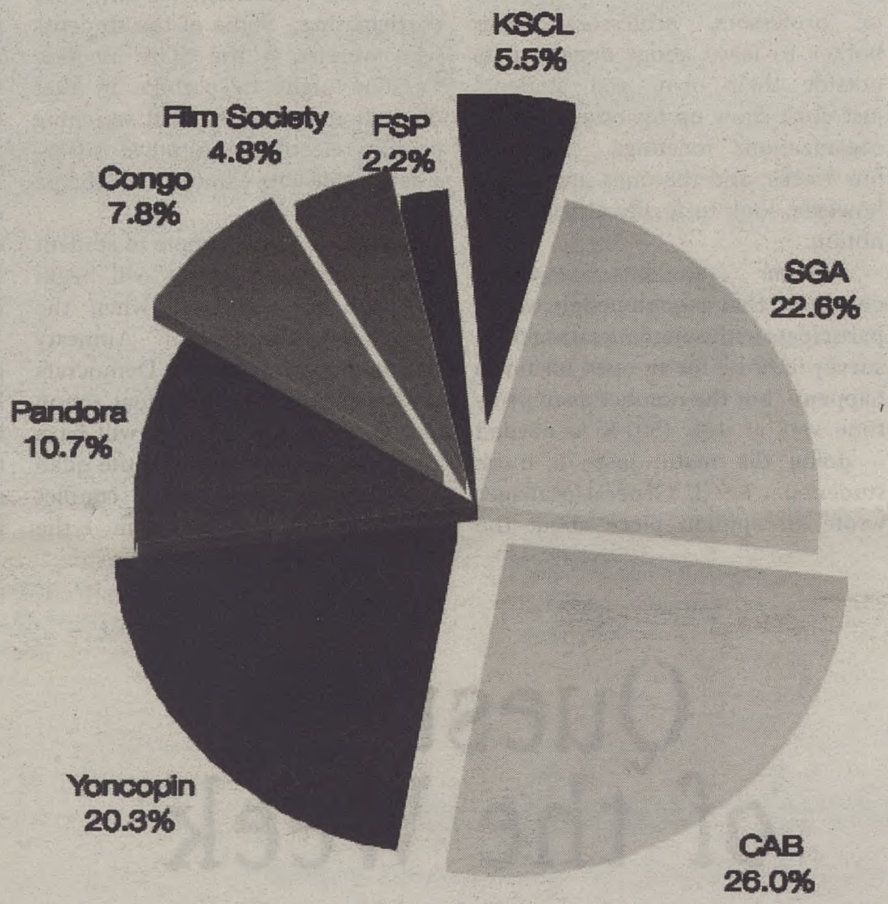
SGA pre-approves the percentages for each organization for each semester. The Media Committee is supposed to have the authority to review the percentages in line with their own budgets, but this hasn't happened because of miscommunication and a lack of organization.

"Every involved student on this campus is extremely supportive of their own organizatins," said Schleuss, who then acknowledged that everyone also "has their own bias."

"It takes an organization like SGA to be the non-biased party in matters such as this. I'm extremely hopeful for the future," he said.

Though Schleuss is the one who presented the numbers, this review will not be limited to just media organizations. Discussion Tuesday night and on The Conglomerate website included all student groups and endeavors, from CAB to Homecoming.

SGA President Holly Williams said at the end of questioning and debate that they are "more than happy" to work with organizations to review the student fee percentages and that this "will be resolved."



Spring 2008 Figures
Activity Fee/Student $140.00 Number of Students: 801
Total Student Activities Fees: $112,140.00

Organization	Money Allocated	Percent of Fees	Media Percent
SGA Resolution	16,181.80	14.4	------------
SGA Office	9,128.20	8.1	------------
CAB	29,156.40	26.0	------------
Yoncopin	22,820.49	20.4	39.57
Pandora	12,032.49	10.7	20.86
Conglomerate	8,713.28	7.8	15.11
KSCL	6,223.77	5.6	10.79
Film Society	5,393.93	4.8	9.35
Fighting Squirrels	2,489.51	2.2	4.32

INSIDE

SGA Senator speaks out about student fees on page 5

Investigation into possible Shreveport police brutality, more on page 8

Ben Folds is coming to Centenary! See page 17

Gymnastics team scores highest team score of the season, see photos on page

We're now online!
Check out www.thecconglomerate.com

Letter from the editor:
The myth of apathetic Centenary students

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Centenary is generally and almost universally seen as a pretty apathetic campus. The feeling is that administrators don't listen to students or professors, professors never bother to learn about departments outside their own, and students just don't show up for other student organizations' meetings. The past few weeks, and the ones upcoming, however, look to finally change that notion.

Some students weren't convinced that enough people would participate in the ongoing satisfaction survey in order for an open forum to happen – but the number as of press time was at 46% (50+% is needed – doing the math, just 75 more students). KSCL General Manager wrote an opinion piece about the financial situation of the radio station in last week's Conglomerate – and has received the most website hits and comments of any article online thus far. The discussion has sparked a debate about the use of student fees, and media heads aren't the only ones participating. Some of the students who weren't at the SGA meeting Tuesday night to partake in that discussion were in the SUB, watching primary election results live, sitting side-by-side with Clinton and Obama t-shirts.

Yet another example of student passion around campus will begin this Sunday, March 9, when the Centenary chapter of Amnesty International and College Democrats team up for a week of student action and awareness. Amnesty will have an exhibit of 3,000 flags in the quad to symbolize the ongoing conflict in the Darfur area of Sudan – the flags symbolize those displaced and killed in the conflict, which has been referred to as a genocide. The College Democrats are using the upcoming 5-year anniversary of the war in Iraq for a demonstration of sorts in the Shell, where 935 playing cards will symbolize 935 lies told by the Bush administration in the run-up to the war and homage will also be paid to the approximately 4,000 U.S. soldiers who have died in combat.

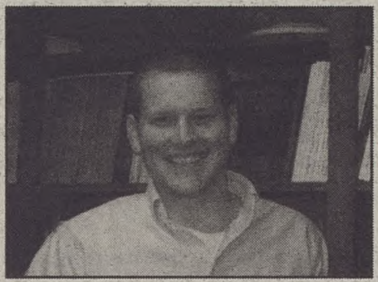
The last time that kind of demonstration has happened on campus was when Bush visited the Gold Dome for a town hall meeting about social security in spring 2005 – supporters and detractors alike gathered on the lawn in front of Cline Hall, facing Kings Highway and the Gold Dome, voicing their opinions through good old-fashioned protests signs and exhibits. A community member was even on hand with guitar to lead the crowd in a chorus of John Lennon's "Imagine" – imagine, seriously, a scene at Centenary just a few years ago reminiscent of the 1960s.

Of course, this is all now happening without the presence of the President of the United States as an instigator (or inspiration) – and, of course, it's all starting to happen when I've only got two months left at Centenary. Still, it bodes well for the future, and I happily think of future Conglomerate meetings when staff will no longer sit around and twiddle their thumbs trying to brainstorm ideas for articles when nothing's happening on campus. At least for now, even though it's midterm/the busiest time of the semester besides finals week, students are involved, outspoken and enthusiastic.

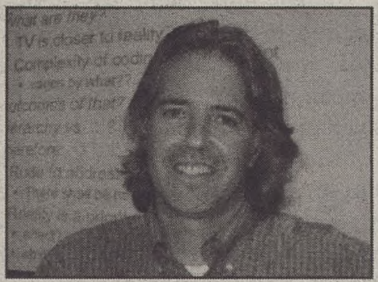
Question of the Week

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE BEATLES SONG?

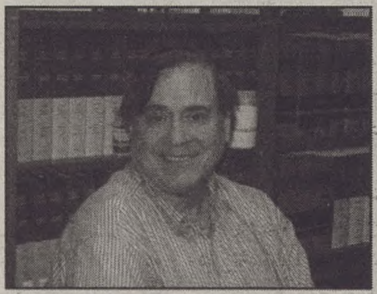
(in honor of CAB's Spring Fling theme)



"Paperback Writer."
-Dr. Phil Barker,
Political Science

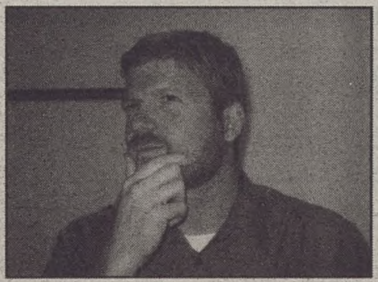


"Yesterday."
-Dr. Loren Demerath,
Sociology



"The entire album, 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.'"
-Dr. Rodney Grunes,
Political Science

"Glass Onion."
-Dr. Kim VanHoosier-Carey,
English



"Here Comes the Sun."
-Dr. David Stafford,
Psychology

"Bungalow Bill."
-Professor Heather Hooper,
Theatre

FEATURES

46% of students have taken satisfaction survey, more than 50% needed by March 14 for open forum

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

In just one week, 46% of all students at Centenary took a satisfaction survey about the campus, with questions about academic advisors, diversity, organizations, and general campus life included. The response rate has thus far dispelled some notions of student apathy, thought to be endemic on campus, and has put the College on track for a campus-wide open forum this semester to discuss student complaints.

The invitations to participate in the survey were sent out by the Enrollment Management Committee last Wednesday, and as of Wednesday, March 5 (press time), the figure was at 46%. The opportunity to take it lasts until March 14, and students will receive another email reminder Monday, March 10. More than 50% of students need to participate in order for an open forum to occur in April.

"The committee, which does include administrators, will lead the spring forum at which results will be shared," said Dr. Meg Webber, Co-Director of the Academic Resource Center for Students and committee member. "Other administrators may also participate." It has not been specified if that includes such figures like President Schwab or Provost Colson, but more details will become clear if the forum is to happen, and they will definitely receive the results of the survey.

Students who take the survey are eligible for any of four $100 prizes – and an email sent yesterday showed that the endeavor has been so well-received, people are donating more. In addition to those original four prizes, students are now eligible for a $500 prize, and will also have $500 donated in their name to The BIG Event, a community-wide service project Centenary is sponsoring in the Highland area at the end of the month. The winning names will be selected by a random computerized mechanism.

A Facebook group about the survey has been formed, to which over 100 Centenary students have joined. Discussion within the group includes concerns over the format of the survey – many students felt that the numerical choices on the survey did not leave sufficient room for open-ended answers. For example, though students have the opportunity to voice dissatisfaction with academic advisors and departments, nothing in the survey allows students to specify which advisor or department they mean.

In response to this, Dr. Webber said, "Once this [survey] assists in determining our most problematic areas, more open-ended approaches will be taken to 'dig deeper.' These... are likely to include further discovery at the spring forum, additional survey work (whether interview, questionnaire, or both), and so on."

Specifically in response to the concern about pinpointing academic advisors, she said the question "will evaluate how satisfied the student body is with our faculty advisor program," for a start.

The Enrollment Management Committee, which includes Dr. Webber as well as Dr. Joshua Lawrence, Dr. Darrel Colson, Dr. David Havird, Dr. Amy Hammond, Tim Crowley, Golda Young, Lori Bradshaw, Mary Sue Rix, Dr. Kim VanHoosier-Carey, and Adam Philley, is mainly working on the survey at this time. The charge of the committee is to ascertain how to improve student enrollment and retention, and in light of this, members are also reviewing "registration (process and timing) and improving our exit interview process and data," according to Dr. Webber.

As for the skeptics – both students and faculty/staff – who believe that a survey doesn't necessarily mean real change, Dr. Webber had this to say: "This is only my second year at Centenary, but I believe the comprehensiveness of this survey is unprecedented on campus." The survey consists of 100 questions and covers a wide range of topics.

Andy Osborn, sophomore and SGA senator, thinks it's a "very good idea" and that "the questions are pretty well-distributed." His only problem is with the two parts of the survey: for any given question, a student has to identify their level of satisfaction, as well as how important it is to them, which Osborn said "was hard to think of" simultaneously and is somewhat "counter-intuitive."

Questions can be directed to Dr. Lawrence, committee chair at jlawrenc@centenary.edu or Dr. Webber at mwebber@centenary.edu.

Students will receive another email on March 10 with a survey reminder.
Four $100 prizes and one $500 prize available to all participating students!

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Attaway Scholar and EcoSpeaker on campus next week to discuss the environment

Sarah Eich
CEA Member

Ever wondered what's in the air you breathe? Attaway Scholar and EcoSpeaker Dr. Jack Lebeau will be visiting Centenary March 13 and 14. Brought to you by the Centenary Environmental Association and the Convocations Committee, Dr. Lebeau is a medical doctor who takes a multi-faceted approach to his job. He has served on the boards of multiple environmental organizations, taught classes at Arcadia University, and also found time to do research. He is specifically interested in environmental toxins and will be speaking about "Diesel Pollution—Troubles and Treatments" on Thursday, March 13 at 11:10 am in the Whited Room. If you have ever thought about pursuing a job in medicine, environmental studies, or research, or even if you are just concerned about the state of the air you breathe, then you should take advantage of this opportunity.

Alumni Hall of Fame inductees include current College President and Board of Trustees Treasurer

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

As part of Centenary's Homecoming Centennial Celebration, the college announced its inductees for the Alumni Hall of Fame – the highest honor that can be given to a Centenary alumnus – and handed out its Distinguished Alumni Awards. The recipients were announced at the Alumni Awards Reception Dinner on February 21.

Dr. Kenneth L. Schwab, the 28th President of Centenary College, was given the title of Honorary Alumnus. According to The Shreveport Times, "Campus improvements have marked Schwab's tenure. Under his leadership, The Vision for the Future campaign raised more than $102 million, enabling many campus improvements and additions to the endowment. As Centenary begins its second century in Shreveport, he is leading the institution into the next comprehensive campaign to transform the college once again."

Lara Moffat, Class of 1995, received the Young Alumni Leadership award. Moffat, a garden designer with Lambert Landscape Company in Dallas, has set the bar for Centenary alumni groups across the country.

Tom and Jane Ellis, Class of 1951, received the Alumni Loyalty Award. They met in the Centenary College Choir, married, and went on to live fulfilling lives. Jane is a retired teacher, and Tom is a retired geologist. According to the Centenary News Service, they have "remained loyal to their alma mater."

Finally, Austin G. Robertson Jr., Class of 1989, was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame. He is currently the treasurer of the Board of Trustees at Centenary and has served there for ten years. Robertson is a CPA who founded Robertson, Bailes & McClelland LLP, and he also received the National Public Service Award from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants in 2004.

Second part of Philosophy Forum generates lively debate

Courtney Delaney
Layout Editor

Last week Dr. Erik Wielenberg spoke in a packed Kilpatrick Auditorium, as part of the annual Philosophy Forum. Wielenberg discussed the ideas presented in his book "Value and Virtue in a Godless Universe." The gist of his argument was that the existence of God and that of morality are not linked.

This week select students and community members gave their take on Wielenberg's viewpoint to a sadly less populated room. They all wrote formal responses beforehand, which were printed in both the Shreveport Times as well as the Conglomerate. The articles sparked much interest across campus and the community, the most controversial of which was the argument made by junior Travis Hill. In his article he compares God to parents disciplining their children. Hill states, "God uses different forms of punishment to discipline his human creations."

At the forum Monday night the conversation tottered between the intended topic to a classic debate on the existence of God and back again. Such debates sprung from the audience as whether or not humans should let history and experience dictate morals instead of God. This triggered a short debate on the morality of war and the justification of killing in battle. Another question brought up was "What exactly proves that God is the basis of morality?" The question seemed to be left unanswered.

In the beginning of the forum Burroughs directly addressed fellow panel member senior Jason Blilie, who plays for the Gents baseball team, about the link between God and playing baseball. More specifically, he asked whether Blilie believed that, despite his teammates' ability as well as his own, that the outcome of their games relied on God's will. Burroughs expressed his own belief that "God sets things in motion and then we do what we please." He also attempted to explain scientific principle and "Lucy's theorem of algebra," which did not appear to be well-understood among the crowd.

One of the really interesting parts of the forum occurred when an audience member directed a question generally at the panel asking that if God and morals are not separate then where do non-religious peoples receive their morals. Travis Hill answered the question claiming that, in his opinion, since God is all-encompassing and real (whether people chose to believe in him or not) that morals are embedded into everyone by God. He did have a very interesting argument about love and suffering, in which he claimed that while we see love as a wholly good thing, when love is not reciprocated, it could cause suffering - no rebuttals or questions followed this.

Roy Fish, the second community member on the panel had a very laid back demeanor. He answered questions without much difficulty; he was the only speaker who was not a Christian and at one point proclaimed to be an atheist. He did receive some heat from some of the audience on this fact but at one point remarked, "people will believe what they want, I am more concerned with how people act and not what they believe."

In the end, the second half of the forum provided good conversation on the topic at hand. Also, there were no angry community members attacking Centenary for inviting what they see as inappropriate guests. This made the atmosphere of the forum much more relaxed and open for an educational debate.

Photo by Emily DeLatin.

SGA Senator speaks out: a response concerning student fees

Matthew Wallace

Last week in The Conglomerate an article was published by KSCL's Station Manager Jon Schluess addressing the allocation of funds by the Student Government Association. This article has instigated a hot-bed of responses and discussions on campus as well as www.thecconglomerate.com.

I feel as if there are some additional facts not presented in the original article, which need to be brought to light to clarify the entire situation. Allow me first to clarify that the opinions expressed in this article do not reflect those of the entire SGA Senate. Additionally I fully support all of the great work of the Media, CAB, and all of the other organizations which SGA charters.

An issue was brought forward that SGA is underfunding some of the Media and that we have not reallocated funds recently. Currently the Media as a whole receive 51.5% of the student fees each semester. The remaining percentages are split between SGA and CAB. Within this 51.5% currently the SGA allocations are as seen on the front page.

SGA realized at the beginning of this year, just as pointed out in the article, that these percentages had not been revisited in several years. To address this issue we had planned to re-allocate funds at our fall retreat. Before this retreat, the Media Heads came to us and asked that they be able to allocate their own funds amongst themselves. Because we felt that they would know their own needs best, we agreed to allow the Media Committee to manage the distribution of funds within the 51.5% allocation.

Unfortunately, as the Senate was informed on Tuesday, there was some miscommunication between SGA and the Media Committee on this issue. Most of the Senate was under the impression that the Media Committee was re-budgeting; however, the Media Committee thought the entire time that SGA was taking care of it. We as a Senate believed all year that the Media were addressing this problem, which is why we have not taken any action.

Now that these issues have been brought to our attention, the SGA is committed to working out the best possible solution with the resources we have. We plan to invite all parties including the Media, CAB, and the Senate to the table to hash out a plan for the future. The hard and fast truth is that it all comes down to the fact that we have limited resources for unlimited ideas. This means that unfortunately someone will leave the table without everything they came wanting. This is simply the nature of business and working within a budget. We, however, are committed to making the best of what we have.

Many organizations on campus do not realize that there are many places to receive funding on campus besides SGA. People can collateral plan with CAB, tap into Admissions and PR for support of events which get Centenary's name out, and work with Development to fundraise from community organizations and alumni. With a declining enrollment, which causes a decrease in student fees, organizations will have to pursue these other matters in order to meet their needs.

On one last note, there were some comments posted to the article online which related to various complaints students had about SGA and other organizations. I want to encourage all students to bring these problems to your student representation and directly to these other groups. Simply talking amongst yourselves and not taking your concerns to the source does not allow us to address the problems. Quite often these concerns can be addressed simply by clarifying why something is the way it is or providing additional information. We want to help make this campus a better place, but we need your help.

By providing us with specific examples of what you are unhappy with and a suggestion on how we can fix that problem we will do everything in our power to help, or we can direct you to the appropriate organization. I cannot stress enough that we cannot fix a problem unless we know it exists. I promise we do not bite and are happy to speak with you at any time. As always, SGA meetings are open to all students. They take place on Tuesdays from 8-10 pm in the Centenary Room.

In the end, I feel like this has been an eye-opening experience for all of those involved. What has happened in the past is now irrelevant. We must all look to the future and take action now. The SGA is committed to making the Centenary community the best it can be with the resources we have. We as students can change, we must change, we will change!

Matthew Wallace is a Sophomore Senator on the SGA and can be reached at mwallace@centenary.edu. He welcomes your feedback and suggestions.

Residence halls open for Easter break for a fee of $50

Sara Carpenter
Staff Writer

Easter break is coming up, March 14-24, and the residence halls will be open again for students to stay on campus. Last semester, Residence Life implemented a new policy on housing during break and it is continuing this semester.

Students were first allowed to stay on campus during Thanksgiving break for a fee of $50 and also over Christmas break for a fee of $75. The new policy has been a big hit. Junior Sociology major Michelle Holt says, "It's very convenient. I'm glad for it because I'm not sure what I'd do about work if I couldn't stay in Shreveport." In order to stay in the residence halls for Easter break, students must go to Kevin Wagner's office to sign up and get a key. The fee for Easter is $50 and will be billed to students through the Business Office. There are a few extra rules because only a few RAs will be on campus. The policy students must sign says that residents are not allowed to have overnight guests of any sex or allow anyone into the residence halls that is not with a group allowed on campus during the break. If the rules are violated, students will be billed $100 per day or could be asked to leave until the halls officially open again. Also, remember that the Caf and Randle's will not be open during break. Keys must be returned to Residence Life by 5pm on March 25 and charges will be incurred if they are not. Please direct any questions or comments to Kevin Wagner at kwagner@centenary.edu or 318-869-5023.

Dr. Osvaldo Vena of the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Illinois was at Centenary last weekend for an interfaith conference on Muslims and Christians.

He performed unique music Friday night - and CDs are available in the Christian Leadership Conference office until they are gone! The lyrics are adapted from the book **"My Shalom, My Peace," paintings and poems by Jewish and Arab children.**

The proceeds from the sale of CDs will benefit Palestinian and Jewish children in the Middle East. The CDs are $10 each.

For more information go to www.stilladream.com or email Betsy Eaves at beaves@centenary.edu.

Student Government Association

Notes from the SGA meeting on March 4, 2008 in the Centenary Room of the caf:

Resolutions passed:

Resolution 0708_35: To allocate man power to the Centenary Activities Board for their Casino Night.

Resolution 0708_36: To allocate $672.50 to the Leading Ladies to attend the Summit League Conference in Tulsa Oklahoma.
Amount awarded: $603.00

Resolutions tabled for next week: None

o Discussion of Readership bill tabled a few weeks ago.

Next meeting: March 11, 2008, at 8:00pm in the Centenary Room

KSCL Battle of the Bands

The Shell's main event kicks off in one month. The event is the 5th Annual Battle of the Bands brought to you by KSCL 91.3 FM and the Centenary Homecoming Committee. The date is Saturday, March 29th at 1pm.

KSCL is seeking eight performers (groups or solo acts) from any genre of music. These artists will compete for first, second, and third place prizes ($300, 150, 50 respectively). Submissions can be digital tracks (send to ksclbotb@gmail.com) or physical CDs (via the post office in the SUB). The last day to turn in submissions is Thursday, March 20th.

This will be a big event for Centenary, KSCL, Highland, and Shreveport so we're looking for help. If anyone is interested in volunteering some time, but not competing, please contact ksclbotb@gmail.com.

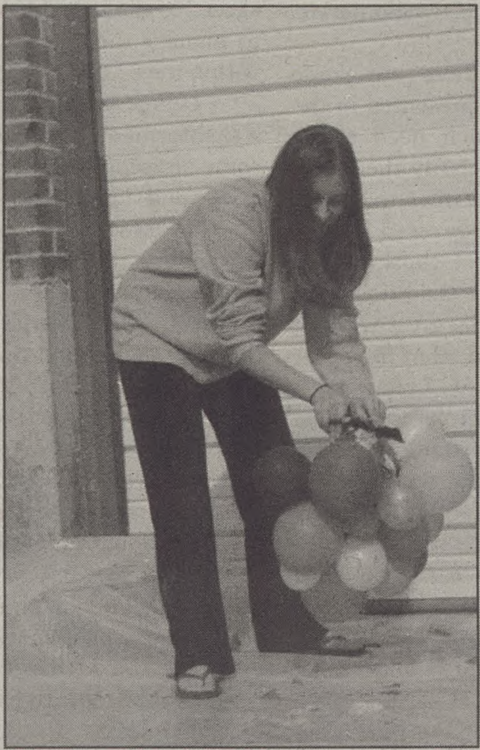
Physics Club to host annual egg drop contest

Stephanie Schreiber
Features Editor

Dropping food from a third-floor window is typically frowned upon; however, the Physics Club is not only allowing students to do so, but is ready to reward those who do it best. All interested students are welcome to watch or participate in the annual Egg Drop Contest, which will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 9.

The contest's premise is simple: construct an apparatus that can hold a raw chicken egg and allow it to survive a 40-foot fall. Ten square feet of plastic will be spread on the pavement below the window, and any team that produces an apparatus that hits this target and keeps its egg intact is eligible for a prize.

Students wishing to compete should meet at the gazebo near Mickle at 2:45 p.m. to sign up. Judges will award points for creativity, targeting, egg survival, and mass of apparatus. Prizes will be given for the apparatus with the greatest number of points, the one with the least mass, the most creative, and the most spectacular. (The "most spectacular" award is an exception to the previous rules that the apparatus must hit the target and the egg must survive; it only needs to look amazing.)



Even if you aren't the scientific type, don't fear! An apparatus may be as simple as a roll of bubble wrap or a small parachute. The 2006 contest even featured an egg secured to the rear end of a giant turkey-shaped helium balloon.

For pictures of previous years' contests and a complete list of rules, visit the website: http://www.centenary.edu/physics/egg.

Photos of past entries in the egg drop contest are available at www.centenary.edu/physics/egg. These photos are from the contest held in November 2006; photos by Dr. Jeff Trahan.

Meet Lise Stockholm, Danish exchange student

Jessica Brown
Staff Writer

Lise Stockholm (pronounced Lisa) is a 22-year-old Danish student from the University of Aarhus. Lise is originally from a small town in Denmark called Jelling. She is here this semester at Centenary to pursue her Bachelor's in English and Communications.

Conglomerate: So Lise, what classes are you taking this semester?

Lise: I'm taking Visual Culture; Literature and the Environment; Advanced Rhetoric, Grammar, and Composition; Advertising and Public Relations; and Principles of Management.

Congo: Which class is your favorite?

Lise: My favorite class is Principles of Management. I've never taken anything like it and I am really enjoying it. I know that in Denmark many, if not all, people go on to pursue a Master's.

Congo: What Master's do you plan on pursuing and why?

Lise: As of right now I plan on pursuing a master in Communications. I really enjoy communication classes and would like to find a job in that field.

Congo: What kind of job would you like to have in the future?

Lise: I would like to work with the public relations of a company. I would help with the hiring and the communication between departments. I really like people and working with them so this would be an ideal job for me.

Congo: Can you tell me anything interesting about your family?

Lise: Both of my parents own their own businesses. My father created and now sells a special type of industrial hammer. My mother invented a computer system that manages what a company's employees can know. My sister works in Copenhagen.

Congo: That's neat. So is this your first time to the United States?

Lise: Actually, no. I worked in Connecticut for a summer as an Au Pair after I graduated from high school. I basically took care of the kids all day so it's not like I got to do anything that exciting, but I did get to travel with the family and I did go to New York.

Congo: What did you think of New York and Connecticut as opposed to Louisiana?

Lise: Well, the North and South are very different. Besides having different climates, people up North have different accents and are not as friendly. People in the South are more warm and open. However, I love New York. I would love to live there in the future.

Congo: Where else have you been in the world and how does New York compare?

Lise: I have been to many different countries. My favorite country in Europe is Italy but I have been all over Western Europe. New York is my favorite city in the world though. I absolutely love Times Square and Manhattan.

Congo: So what are some of your hobbies?

Lise: I sing actually but I decided not to sing here. I'm very open-minded and I love to travel. I want to go everywhere!

Congo: Where all do you plan to visit in the United States?

Lise: I'm going to Florida for spring break. I also plan on going to Texas and California. I really want to go to Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Congo: Is there anything else you would like the Centenary community to know about you?

Lise: I love the small size of the school and how everyone is so friendly. No one walks by without saying hello and asking how I am. I like that everybody knows everyone else and that it is like a family here.

Photo by Mindy McKoin.

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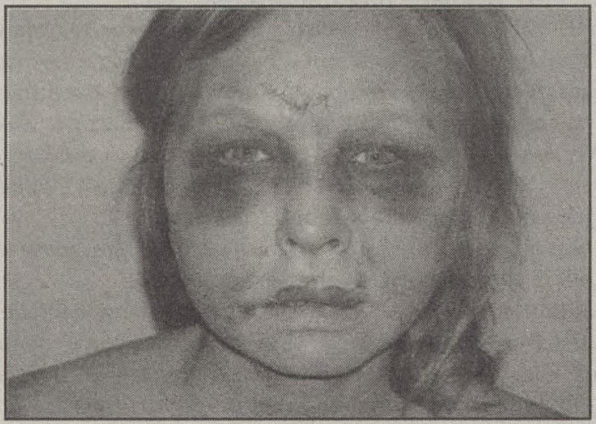
Shreveport resident allegedly assaulted by police officer



Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

In an event that made most national news networks, a Shreveport police officer was fired on February 5 for a recent incident involving a female drunk driver, Angela Garbarino.

Garbarino was booked on November 17, 2007, for suspicion of driving while intoxicated. As per the policy of the Shreveport Police Department, the booking process was taped. According to the booking officer, Wiley Willis, 30, the suspect was being belligerent.

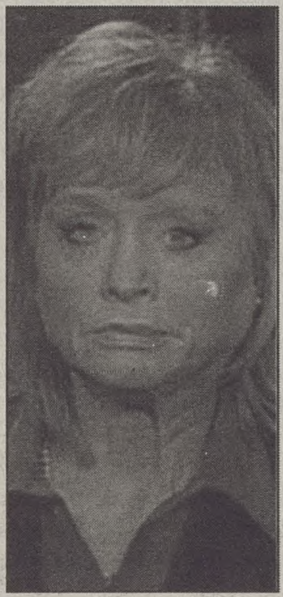
The tape certainly agrees. In the video, Garbarino, 42, asks for a phone call. When the request is ignored, she says, "You're not going to let me call anybody? I have a right to call somebody right now and I know that. Is this on the record?"

Willis then forced her into a chair despite protests. The suspect screams, "Don't touch me again. Get away from me." The officer then turns off the camera.

It was at first unclear why he powered down the camera, but Shreveport Police say that it is standard policy to shut off cameras in order save tape once a suspect has refused a breathalyser test. It seems that most police departments have this same policy.

What is odd about the case, however, is what comes later in the tape. Willis turns on the camera once more, and when he steps away, Garbarino is visible on the floor with blood running down her face and pooling around her head. The officer repeatedly looks down at his hands and then walks from the room. A little later, another officer walks in for a cursory look at the scene. Medical workers enter shortly thereafter and remove Garbarino from the room on a stretcher.

Ron Miciotto, Garbarino's attorney, says that she received bruises, a broken nose, and a severe cut on her forehead. He also made an issue of the fact that Willis can be seen looking down at his hands.



"On three occasions he looks down on his hands to see if there is any blood," Miciotto said.

"The suspect again tried to leave the room. In the process of stopping her, she fell and injured herself," said Eron Brainard, Willis' attorney.

It is hotly contested as to whether the officer assaulted Garbarino or she fell, but no criminal charges can be brought against Willis due to lack of evidence. Said Tulane University forensic criminologist Wade S. Schindler, "I think we have a situation where the arrested person is refusing to cooperate and the police officer apparently overreacted."

The Shreveport Police Union thinks differently. "What we find to be unreasonable was the behavior of the suspect from the point she came in the room," said the organization's president, Michael Carter, who is aiding Willis in the appeal of his dismissal.

The video can be viewed on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxgNKNEtk18.

(Quotes from ABC News)

Photos: Angela Garbarino with her injuries, allegedly caused by a Shreveport police officer; (middle) Garbarino before the assault.

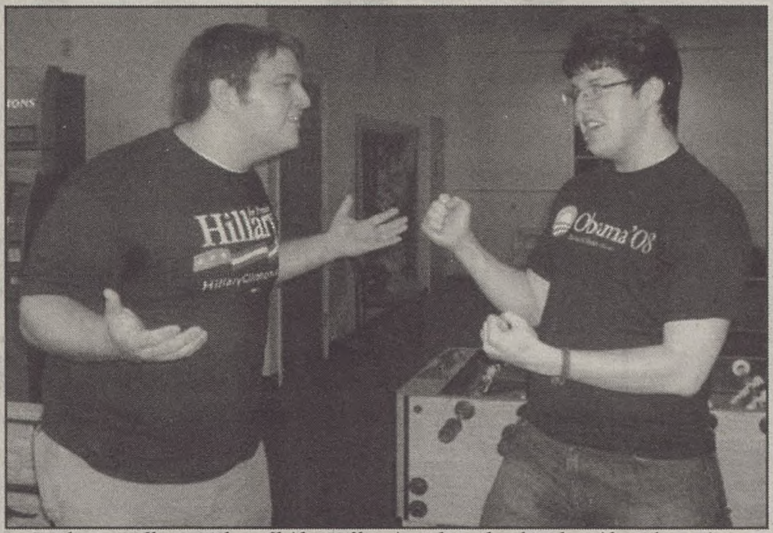
Image credit: ABC News, except for SPD patch courtesy of Shreveport Police Department

SHREVEPORT
POLICE

ELECTION NEWS

Clinton halts Obama's momentum; McCain clinches nomination

OHIO
Democrats: Clinton 54%, Obama 44%
Republicans: McCain 60%, Huckabee 31%, Paul 5%
TEXAS (Primary)
Democrats: Clinton 51%, Obama 48%
Republicans: McCain 51%, Huckabee 38%, Paul 5%
TEXAS (Caucus)
Democrats: Obama 56%, Clinton 44% (just 40% precincts reporting on Thursday morning)
Republicans: do not have a state caucus
RHODE ISLAND
Democrats: Clinton 58%, Obama 40%
Republicans: McCain 65%, Huckabee 22%, Paul 7%
VERMONT
Democrats: Obama 59%, Clinton 39%
Republicans: McCain 72%, Huckabee 14%, Paul 7%



*Students William Takewell (for Hillary) and Michael Jarboe (for Obama) duke it out in the SUB while watching primary results on TV.
Photo by Versha Sharma.*

TOTAL DELEGATE COUNTS
*Numbers from CNN include pledged delegates and super delegates
DEMOCRATS: OBAMA 1,520 CLINTON 1,424
(2,025 needed to win)
REPUBLICANS: MCCAIN 1,289 HUCKABEE 267
(1,191 needed to win)

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Pakistani police charge suspects in assassination of Bhutto; Venezuela and Ecuador mobilize troops in response to Colombia

Kari Patterson
Staff Writer

Pakistani police have charged another suspect they believe is connected with the December 27th assassination of Benazir Bhutto. The most recent suspect, Baitullah Mehsud, is a top Taliban leader in Pakistan. Though the police have already arrested four other people in connection with the assassination, including cousins who confessed to providing the suicide bomb vest and weapons to the assassins, Mehsud has been charged as the mastermind of the attack. Mehsud has denied any involvement. Bhutto was a two-time Prime Minister of Pakistan and the leader of the Pakistan People's Party. Despite allegations of corruption during her previous terms, she was believed to be negotiating some kind of power-sharing agreement with President Musharraf prior to her death.

Kari Patterson
Staff Writer

Venezuela and Ecuador have all apparently begun to mobilize troops in response to a Colombian cross-border raid into Ecuador last week. Colombia claims that the raid, which was against FARC rebels, was regrettable but necessary in their fight against terrorism. Both Ecuador and Venezuela have severed diplomatic ties with Colombia, and the Organization of American States called the raid "a breach of sovereignty," but did not explicitly condemn the action. The raid and subsequent responses by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa, who called the incursion a "war crime," sent tanks to the border to prevent any further actions on Colombia's part. The leaders also announced their intentions to defend their respective nations' sovereignty at any cost, which sent the international community scrambling to try and diffuse the tense situation. French President Nicolas Sarkozy was among those calling for all sides to preserve peace in the region this week. Though Washington expressed hopes that the issue would be resolved diplomatically, the situation has yet to be resolved.

During the raid, senior FARC leader Raul Reyes was killed. Reyes' death was a large blow to FARC's leadership, according to an AP report. FARC, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia, considered by the U.S. to be a guerrilla terrorist organization, originally was the military arm of the Communist party in Colombia. More recently, FARC has been involved in the drug trade throughout South America.

STUDENT AWARENESS WEEK

Students to emphasize Darfur and Iraq atrocities, sponsored by Amnesty International & College Democrats

The Centenary chapter of Amnesty international and the College Democrats club are teaming up to sponsor Student Awareness Week for March 9-14.

In the quad, Amnesty will place 3,000 flags to signify all those who have been displaced and killed by the ongoing conflict in Darfur. Each flag represents 1,000 displaced or killed Darfuri in Sudan.

In the shell, the College Democrats will have a two-part display: the first to commemmorate the 4,000 United States soldiers who have died fighting in Iraq, and the second to emphasize the 935 lies the Bush administration told to stir up support for the war. The study that produced the 935 number was done by the Center for Public Integrity, who studied the statements of President Bush and seven top officials, including Dick Cheney, Condoleezza Rice, and Donald Rumsfeld. The period covered was from September 11, 2001 to September 11, 2003. The war in Iraq began on March 19, 2003 - the Democrats' event will take place near the 5-year anniversary of the beginning of the war. More information can be found at www.publicintegrity.org/WarCard.

On Wednesday, March 12 at 5:00 pm in the SUB, both clubs will have a student/professor panel. The panel members will speak on the current situations in both Darfur and Iraq.

To find out how you can get involved with Amnesty, contact Group Coordinator Megan Ottesen at mottesen@centenary.edu; for College Democrats, contact President Nadine Kaskas as nkaskas@centenary.edu.

Merger frenzy: EA Games looks to merge with smaller studios to continue its dominance

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

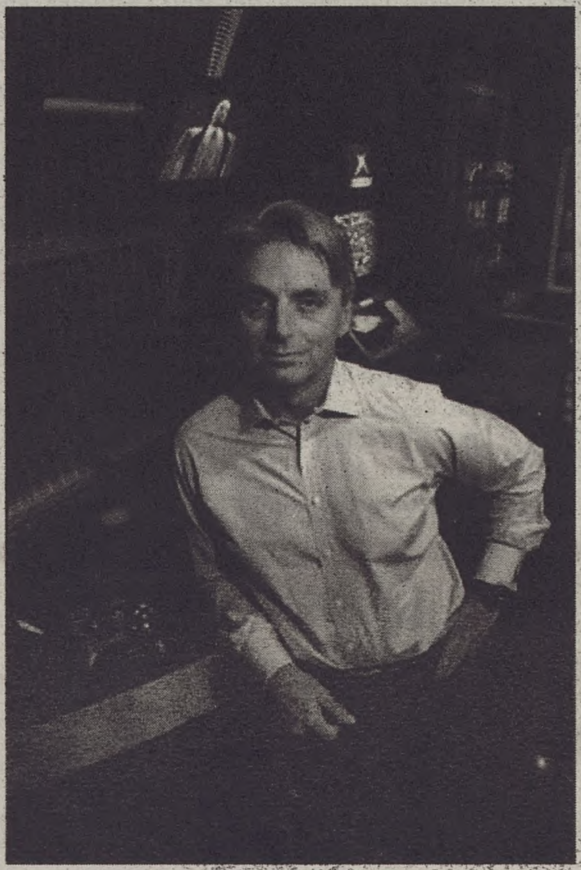
It seems as if recent technology news has centered on the imminent Microsoft-Yahoo merger, and now we have a new merger on our hands. Electronic Arts (EA), famous for its sports video games such as Madden, FIFA, and NBA Live, offered on February 24 to buy out a rival studio, Take-Two Interactive Software Inc. The latter is noted for its very successful Grand Theft Auto series.

Electronic Arts proposed a $26-per-share cash offer, which amounts to around two billion dollars. The merger talks come on the heels of last November's merger of Vivendi and Activision, which was meant to challenge EA's dominance of the market. It has been rumored for several months that Take-Two is in the market for a merger.

Take-Two refused an original offer of $25 dollars-per-share, and has since scoffed at EA's newest deal. At the time of the February 24 offer, Take-Two was valued at $17.36 per share, which in the event of a merger, would amount to a large profit for major stockholders in the company.

Take-Two is now valued (at the time of writing) at $26.50 per share, and an official press release by executives said, "...The Board has determined that EA's proposal substantially undervalues Ta[illegible] Two's robust and enviable s[illegible] of game franchises, excep[illegible] creative talent, and strong consum[illegible] loyalty." They also put forward that, "EA's unsolicited offer is highly opportunistic and is attempting to take advantage of our upcoming release of Grand Theft Auto IV." Grand Theft Auto IV, [illegible] released by Rockstar Games [illegible] owned by Take-Two), is the [illegible] entry in a series that is undou[illegible] the company's biggest money-maker. The company suggested that it would prefer to resume talks after the game's April 29 release, which should inevitably drive its stock price higher.

With the refusal of Take-Two's board, EA has publicly released its offer in hopes that shareholders will push for the merger. However, a major investor in Take-Two was quoted in a Reuters article as saying, "We see Take-Two valued at around $33 a share." With the rise in price of the company's shares, it doesn't seem as if shareholders will bite on an offer that's now lower than their own stock price.



Despite this, Electronic Arts could likely succeed with a hostile takeover, which EA's Chief Financial Officer Warren Jenson said was a possibility. When asked if the company would pursue this type of hostile bid, he said only, "Our objective is to make this [a] friendly deal, but we have to keep all options open."

Blogs have lit up with video gamers worried about a lack of innovation in the game industry, saying that game production will become as top-heavy as the movie business if the deal goes through. However, as CNET columnist Daniel Terdiman notes, "Even with a wide gap between the No. 1 and No. 2 companies and everyone else, it's important to remember that [in the event of the merger's success] there would still be plenty of important and respected publishers: Disney, Ubisoft, THQ, Midway, and Infogrames, to name a few, not to mention Microsoft, Sony, and Nintendo."

EA's CEO, John Riccitiello, also told CNET that, "There's a long history of companies in position 4, 5, 6, 7, [including] Infogrames, Midway, Acclaim, Giant Interactive.... Companies that have strong cash flow, positive experience every couple of years, and lean times in between have had a very hard time surviving in this business and making the investment in infrastructure that EA's been able to make. They'll be acquired by somebody."

One can only assume that this means EA, which had "$3.4 billion in cash and short-term investments" in December 2007, will be on the prowl for other small companies after acquiring Take-Two. It should continually look to dominate the market.

Pictured: Riccitiello, courtesy of msnbc.com; EA logo from ea.com.

Sudan restricts Danish goods, Denmark refuses to give debt relief

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

Last Tuesday, Sudan put in place a presidential decree that bans the import of Danish goods. Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir also said that he would start barring Danes from the country, and he urged the Muslim world to follow his lead. Anti-Danish riots have ensued in Sudan, the most notable of which was a protest march at the prestigious Khartoum University in Khartoum State, Sudan.

The ban occurred, said Danish aid minister Ulla Toernaes, because her government allowed newspapers to reprint the infamous comic depicting the Prophet Mohammad that so incensed the Islamic world two years ago. The Danish media reportedly reprinted the comic to show their dedication to freedom of speech after "police uncovered a plot to kill the artist who drew it," said Reuters.

The Danish government soon struck back against Sudan, saying that they will not support debt relief for the African nation. Aljazeera says that Sudan's debt to Denmark amounts to roughly $405 million (USD). Typically, Sudan stands as one of the largest aid recipients from the Danish Government; in 2006, the amount was $26 million.

CNN quoted Toernaes as saying, "It surprises me that Sudan's government apparently is willing to cut the cooperation with a donor like Denmark on development aid because of a caricature in Danish newspapers."

While Sudan will cut debt relief aid, Toernaes did say that they would not put an end to development and humanitarian aid to the country. "Our support is not a support to the Sudanese president or, for that matter, to the government."

As of yet, it is unknown what economic issues will arise because of the ban.

Prince Harry fights on the front line in Afghanistan

Heir to the throne searches for normality but comes home to yet more controversy

Jonathan Hedley
Contributing Writer

Once upon a time it was commonplace for princes and kings to lead their armies out into battle. Their presence and leadership on the battlefield provided an inspiration to their soldiers and struck fear into the hearts of their enemies. The last time England was conquered, in 1066, by the Normans from northern France, the battle was won when the reigning king of England, Harold, took an arrow in the eye and fell. History (naturally) records that the warrior-prince, William of Normandy was a lion on the battlefield that day, leading his men by example, brutally slaying all those in his path as if he were invincible.

It's quite laughable to imagine George W. and Osama bin Laden circling each other in some clearing in the hills near the Afghan-Pakistan border, swords drawn and dripping with the blood of the countless ordinary mortals they had already slain, with a contingent of GIs and keffiyehed guerrillas looking on - though it probably would be a much more preferable way to settle various ills of the world now that I think about it.

Possibly the most surprising news this week is that Prince Harry of Wales, second son of Charles and Diana and third heir to the throne of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, has been fighting secretly on the front line in Afghanistan for the last ten weeks. The 23 year-old joined the army as soon as he was able and has been eager to 'see some action' ever since. Why? To be normal, of course.

When the troop he commanded was sent to Iraq several moths ago, the young prince was said to be distraught at the fact that his commanding officers refused to deploy him personally, for obvious security reasons.

He later conceded that he would indeed have been "a bullet magnet", which is why on this occasion, a complete media blackout was agreed right across the board. So effectively in fact, that the American F-15 pilots deployed to the Taliban stronghold Garmsir area never had the faintest idea that the public schoolboy voice coming through the radio to give them orders to attack, known to them only as Widow Seven Six, was in fact Henry Charles Albert David Windsor, Prince of Wales. So much for the Boston Tea Party.

The Prince's job was to locate the enemy in their hiding places and call in air support, sometimes coming within 500 metres of Taliban fighters.

Now, despite being third in line to the throne, Prince Harry will probably never become king. This is because his older brother Prince William will very probably one day have children, hence continuing the direct line to the throne, of which Harry, being the second son, is not a part. The only circumstance in which Prince Harry would become king is if William died without producing a child.

Now this puts Prince Harry in a remarkable position – he is an immediate member of the royal family, yet, like his uncle Andrew, he is exempt from the responsibility that comes with being a future reigning monarch. He also, one senses, feels a bit claustrophobic at being in the public spotlight so much. Add these things together and you get the pot-smoking, shot-downing, party boy Prince Harry we all know and love. In this capacity, he conveniently and occupies a unique role in the family – he's the one that many young Brits can relate to.

However, it's not all partying, 'one' has to do serious things in life too, and what more can one do to earn a little respect than to follow in the footsteps of his great great great great great (etc) grandfather (Harry is a direct descendant of the aforementioned William the Conqueror) and lead the troops into battle, albeit anonymously.

The media blackout has caused quite a stir now that it's all out in the open, with the British Ministry of Defence being accused of waging a "propaganda war". Many feel that the Prince's deployment was a PR stunt, and furthermore, that in having the story kept a secret for ten weeks, the MoD intended to "have their cake and eat it" – enjoying the prestige of having the Prince there in Afghanistan but with the safety net of keeping it a secret until he came home. Such clear cut attempts to manipulate the press are viewed with particular distaste by all involved in a theoretically democratic society.

The British media were conceded benefits in return for their silence. The BBC would have exclusive interview rights on the Prince's return to the UK, while ITN, the UK's second most important news source, would be allowed to publish their coverage of his preparations for deployment back in December. CNN, when they heard "through the grapevine" about the story, also forced themselves in on the deal. However, it's hard to please everybody, and the story was finally leaked last week by U.S. based organisation, The Drudge Report, best known for uncovering the Monica Lewinsky scandal in 1998.

It's not uncommon for press and media associations to agree on censorship under certain, very sensitive circumstances like hostage crises or secret military strikes, but many feel that this story did not fall into such a category.

Much to his dismay, Prince Harry himself has of course been back brought home, lest he become an 'ace of spades' for the Taliban forces holding out back in Afghanistan. When interviewed by a member of the Associated Press about life on the front line before his departure, the prince was quoted as saying he didn't care much for life in England, citing the constant attention of the press and the stories they write about him as a main concern.

"This is about as normal as it gets…nine times out of ten someone stumbles upon you when you're having a shit ..."

The Prince himself has also come under fire, if you'll excuse the pun, for using the war in Afghanistan as "therapy".

Photos of Harry in Afghanistan in uniform courtesy of the Associated Press. Bottom photo taken by John Stilwell.

Russia elects new President in mostly uncontested race

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

Unsurprisingly, Monday saw the election of Dmitry Medvedev as the new Russian president. Friend and protégé of current President Vladimir Putin, the 42 year old Medvedev swept more than 70 percent of the vote in a nearly uncontested election. Putin, who has held the Russian presidency for eight years and is now constitutionally barred from seeking a third term, will step down in May. The nearest candidate was communist Gennady Zyuganov, who placed second with just under 18 percent.

The election was opposed by many Russians, who said that minor candidates were treated unfairly in the race. As Reuters columnist Tom Peter said, "Medvedev enjoys full Kremlin backing and blanket media coverage. . . ." This allowed Medvedev to win without issue, sparking small protests on the streets of Moscow and St. Petersburg. Peter also noted that critics said Medvedev's campaign resembled "a coronation rather than an election."

Yet many Russians didn't mind the results. It stands as a general consensus that Medvedev will follow in Putin's footsteps (he has said as much), perpetuating the economic boom that Russia is currently experiencing. This looks to be exactly what much of the Russian populace is looking for.

Most in the West have opposed the manner in which the elections were held. United States presidential candidate John McCain was quoted by Reuters as saying, "The Russian election, and I use that term loosely, was conducted and, as we all knew, the protégé of Vladimir Putin was selected the new president."

Another candidate, Barack Obama, also chimed in with, "I am disappointed that this election was not fully free and fair because of the absence of a free media, and the harassment of opposition figures and political parties."

The majority of Western governments, however, declined to directly comment on the unfairness of the elections, generally agreeing that they would prefer to work amicably with Medvedev to restore and preserve Russian democracy, something that has largely disappeared under the current leader's reign. The United States said that it "looks forward to working with him."

Putin has said he will move to the position of prime minister, and it is unsure whether power will remain with him or shift to Medvedev. Certainly, Russia will at least see a dual power structure, where for many years there has been only one strong central leadership.

Put aptly by Russian analyst Vycheslav Nikonov, it all comes down to the basic opinion of the public. "Putin is still more popular, more trustworthy. As for Medvedev, he is the president of hope, and much will depend on whether he can deliver."

[Image Credits CNN.com]

XΩ
WISHING
the Ladies
and Gents
Good LUCK!

Centenary's 17th Annual Student Research Forum

The end of the spring semester is within sight, and we wanted to remind you of our 17th Annual Student Research Forum. We take great pride in our students' research here at Centenary, and we look forward to the time that we have set aside for them to present that research to the whole College community. The presentations of the 17th Annual Forum are scheduled for Friday, April 25th, 2008, which is a little less than 3 months from now.

Awards and cash prizes will be given to the winners of the oral presentations and the poster presentations. We will provide more details later, but we hope that all of you will participate in this upcoming forum. We hope that student-researchers will share their work with the rest of us, and we hope as well that their colleagues and classmates will join the faculty in celebrating that work.

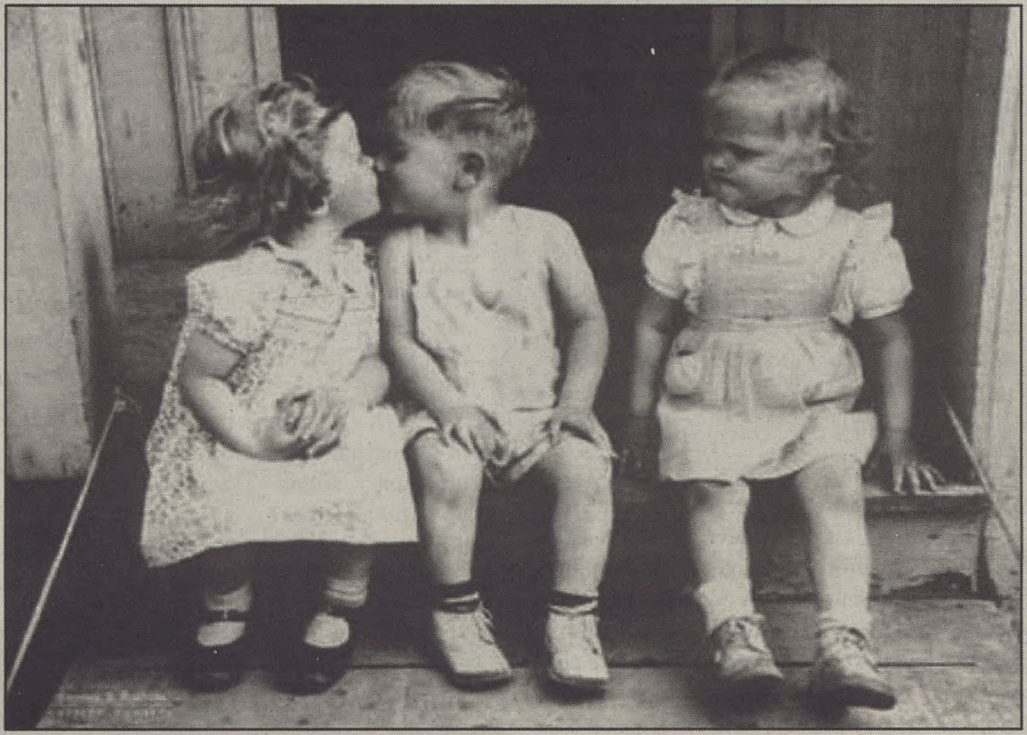
We wish all of you students well on your research and on your posters or oral presentations.

If you have any questions about this upcoming 17th annual research forum, please contact the director, Matt Weeks, whose email address is: rmweeks@centenary.edu, or office phone: 841-7268.

Sex and the Centenary: On jealousy

Every text you send, every email you read - I'll be watching you

Southern Elle
Staff Writer



"What do you call a group of lesbians?" The answer: ex-girlfriends. The queer community is small; most lesbians know each other and/or have past sexual histories with each other. You can imagine how messy and confusing interconnections between people can become. But you ask, how does this apply to you if you're not a lesbian? Well, Centenary is the same type of situation. It's a small community of a lot of people who know each other; often your ex-boyfriend, your boyfriend, and your future crush are all on this campus living in co-harmony.

Ha. Co-harmony? Really? While we all like to believe that relationships begin and end with clean breaks, that is rarely the case. Emotions between ex's can come and go for years. What about the accidental hookup from first year who you ran into yesterday? What about your crazy ex-boyfriend who thinks it's ok to stalk your Facebook profile? Or the girl you didn't-date-but-slept-with-for-six-months who now is your best friend? When you mix a new partner into the mess, life becomes even more complicated. What if your new boyfriend hates your old boyfriend... or your girlfriend thinks your ex set up her class schedule just to spend three days a week as your lab partner? It seems like things rarely go smoothly when your past history meets up with your current life... and that's when the green-eyed monster really comes out roaring.

There are so many, many, many confusing situations that fit into the topic of "jealousy." Your boyfriend tried to get his ex to send him naked pictures? You broke into your partners match.com account to see if she was looking for hookups? Your fiancé went to a strip club and pushed the limits a little? The list goes on and on – and that's not including the insane cases, like people who murder their partners (or their partner's ex) out of jealousy fears. Hopefully, no one reading this is going to go that far off the edge.

Well, correct me if I'm nuts, but jealousy tends to lead to some really scary behaviors. Stalking, listening in to conversations, checking your partner's text messages, keeping track of your partner's friends... besides being a huge waste of time, these behaviors make you come off like you are insane. Obviously breaking your partner's trust and acting like a raving lunatic can harm your relationship. Would you want to date someone who checks to make sure you are really where you say you are?

So how do you create a relationship without crazy drama, jealousy, and broken trust?

1) Don't date crazy people. Seriously. If you have a crush on someone who freakishly has your phone number, license plate, social security number, campus box, and schedule memorized before you know her last name... well, trouble comes with red flags. Find someone else.

2) Don't perpetuate insane behavior. If your partner goes through your text messages, say something. But don't feel like you now should go through his phone. If you don't want something done to you, don't do it to your partner. Make it clear that invasion into privacy is not ok by either party.

3) Don't blame your partner for her ex's behavior. His behavior is separate from hers – she may not like how he acts around her or how he acts toward you either.

4) Accept some realities. You cannot control your partner's every move. In fact, you shouldn't even WANT to know where he is all the time. If he is going to cheat, you can't stop him. But if you chase him, sit on top of him, or accuse him every five seconds, he will probably feel so constrained that he will want out of the relationship – and cheating then becomes an attractive option.

5) Talk to your partner!! Having a relationship where your partner can express emotions and needs – that includes talking about crushes, emotional attachments to ex's, etc. – will help lessen fears about cheating. You have to understand that some emotions, including attractions, are natural and healthy. That doesn't mean that everyone acts on their attractions; your partner could have an attraction without cheating. Tell your partner when you don't feel comfortable with their actions. Help each other set boundaries that you both are comfortable with; understanding each other's ideas about boundaries can help establish private space and trust.

Relationships are supposed to be enjoyable – don't let jealousy and fear ruin your connection with your partner.

Have you done the survey?

Drawing for participants:
four **$100** gift certificates to store or restaurant of your choice

Watch for the "Student Satisfaction Inventory Invitation" email, use the personalized link to complete the confidential 20-minute survey before Friday, March 14th.

Questions? Dr. Joshua Lawrence, jlawrenc@centenary.edu

Students explore environmental studies minor at Chimp Haven

Courtesy of Rick DelaHaya of the Centenary News Service

Reprinted from centenary.edu

SHREVEPORT, La.—Six students from Centenary College made a special trip to a sanctuary for chimpanzees March 3 to see first hand how the staff there is working to promote positive environmental change in the community.

The visit to Chimp Haven was part of a special course called "Environment and Society," the capstone course for the Environment and Society minor at Centenary that emphasizes the interrelationships between the environment, culture, science, and society. As part of the course, students are learning about different organizations and individuals who have been working to promote positive environmental change in our own community.

In addition to visiting Chimp Haven, students in the class were able to hear from local environmentalist Murray Lloyd, who discussed his experiences with the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the Louisiana Black Bear Conservation initiative. Students will also spend a day volunteering at the Community Growing Station and Garden on campus, and will even get to canoe a segment of the Trinity River in Dallas.

"By visiting Chimp Haven, students were able to learn about the complexities of creating such a sanctuary as well as to see how passionate the people who work for Chimp Haven are about what they do," said Jeanne Hamming, Assistant Professor of English. "Several students expressed interest in volunteering at the sanctuary as a result of their visit. As a professor who teaches environmental humanities, I think it is important that students get outside the classroom and into the world, which is, after all, what these classes are about in the first place."

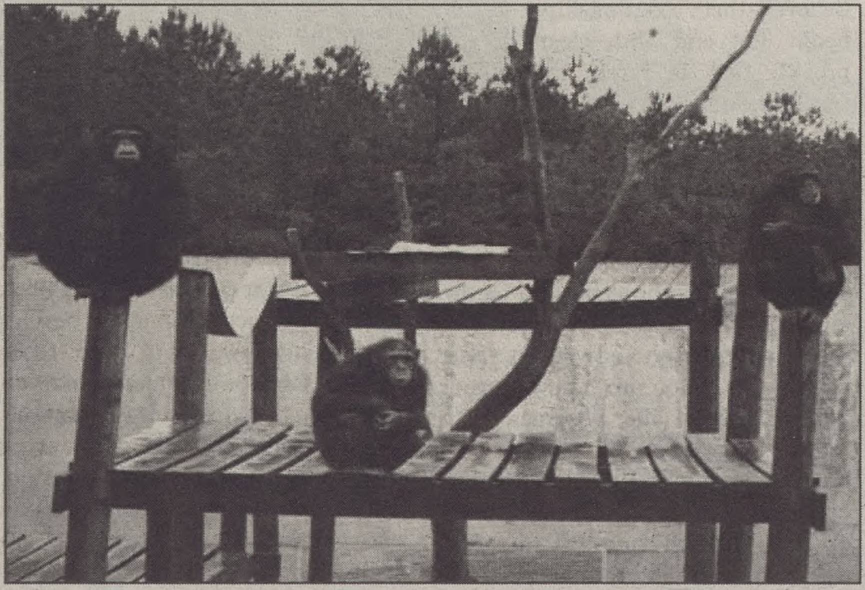
Chimp Haven, located 22 miles southwest of Shreveport, is a sanctuary for chimpanzees retired from biomedical research. Currently there are approximately 141 chimpanzees residing at the sanctuary, and will eventually be home to more than 200 chimpanzees.

"This was my first visit to the sanctuary, but hopefully not my last," added Hamming. "I hope to take more classes to the sanctuary, and to learn as much as I can from Behaviorist Amy Fultz. Her knowledge of primates and of these chimpanzees in particular is amazing!"

Hamming would also like to bring Chimp Haven staff members to campus to talk about their experiences and the important work they are doing. "Chimp Haven is such an untapped resource for this college and I hope there can be more meaningful collaboration in the future," she said. "I would even like to see Centenary and Chimp Haven team up to create a post-doctorate position, a position where a recent PhD could teach courses at Centenary while also conducting research and doing service at the Sanctuary."

Haven House

Top left photo: from left to right, Stephen Hollaway, Steven Brown, Professor Jeanne Hamming, Sarah Eich, Elizabeth Robinson, Heidi Clift, Chimp Haven education director, Rachel Johnson, and Malari Coburn. (photo courtesy of Chimp Haven)



Middle photo: Keeli, (left) Ivy and Emma keep a close eye on the students from Centenary while visiting the sanctuary. (photo courtesy of Chimp Haven)

Bottom left: Students observe one of the groups of chimpanzees in a one-half acre outdoor play yard at Chimp Haven. The students were visiting the sanctuary to see first hand how the staff there is working to promote positive environmental change in the community. (photo courtesy Chimp Haven)

A&E

KSCL to celebrate 32nd birthday at Actor's Cafe

Jon Schleuss
Contributing Writer

KSCL 91.3 FM, Centenary's campus radio station, is teaming up with the Actor's Cafe for a benefit concert on Friday, March 14th at 8:30pm. The event will also be a celebration of KSCL's 32nd birthday. The cost of admission is a recommended donation of $5. The money will go to the performers and KSCL. The performers include AJ Haynes, Connor Davis, Kirk Reedstrom, Costas Dafnis, Jeffrey Gabriel, Josiah Rambin, and others.

The Actor's Cafe, formerly Bear's, is a refreshing music and art venue located on the corner of Fairfield and Southern Avenue, near the Body Electric Tattoo parlor. The Actor's Cafe is open to all ages, yet serves alcohol to those of age. Owner Jeffrey Nightbyrd is excited about his recent venture. He found the current venues in town weren't "fitting." So, he opened his own restaurant, bar, and venue. There are several concerts in the pipeline including art shows, belly dancing, open-mic nights, and on-stage monologues. Nightbyrd is very receptive to ideas and programs. Expect a lot of great things from this new, hip joint in Shreveport. For more information visit KSCL's website at www.kscl.fm or the Actor's Cafe MySpace page at www.myspace.com/actorscafemusic.

Review: "There Will Be Blood"" is riveting due to Daniel Day-Lewis' performance

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

It is very rare that I find a movie that I can't stop going over in my mind as I try to understand it and make sense of what I saw. I don't mean in a "the movie was confusing kind of way," either. I mean "the movie was deep and required thought to digest." Sometimes that makes reviewing the movie difficult, because while I may not like the movie, I have to recommend it as an experience. However, in the case of "There Will Be Blood," I did like the movie and I have yet to stop thinking about it.

The film is about Daniel Plainview (Daniel Day-Lewis), an oil man whose only mission in life is to make money by way of the oil business. The film chronicles his life from 1898 to 1927 as he rises slowly and falls suddenly. Throughout the movie, Plainview meets shady characters, does shady deals with said characters, and ultimately becomes a disturbing and violent person who will do anything to make money (even kill).

There is not a central plot to the movie. There is no cohesive storyline. Instead, the movie is an account of a man who starts off bad and only gets worse as he progresses. Plainview is not a likable man, yet he is a very compelling character. I never once wanted to stop watching the man because I always knew that he was unpredictable and very cunning. Every move he makes is premeditated.

Part of the reason he is so compelling is because of Daniel Day-Lewis, who is easily one of the greatest actors alive. Never once do I see an actor onscreen. I see Plainview. The man owns the screen and makes other performances look like mere child's play, though they would be Oscar nominated had they been in any other movie. This is especially the case for Paul Dano, who plays two characters in twin brothers Paul & Eli Sunday. Sunday is a preacher who gets struck by the greed bug and tries to go head-to-head with Plainview during the film. His performance is scary and convincing as a preacher with an almost cult-like following, but he still falls in the shadow of Day-Lewis as Plainview.

While Daniel Day-Lewis's performance is the best thing about the movie, there is still much to be praised. The cinematography is brilliant. Everything in the film is vibrant and as dry as the desert settings. The musical score, as written by Radiohead guitarist Jonny Greenwood, is bizarre and eclectic. Never once does it do what you expect and it is constantly unnerving, and it makes the story unfolding also seem less predictable.

Of course, the movie is directed excellently by Paul Thomas Anderson, who also wrote the script. There is not a single bit of this film that feels out of place or wrong. Everything is spot-on.

However, the movie is very slow and long at 158 minutes. This movie is not for people who need action scenes every five minutes or for people with ADD. The movie takes its time telling the story of Daniel Plainview. Yet, despite the slow nature of the film, it is always compelling. I couldn't take my eyes off the screen.

Ultimately, this movie is similar to films like "Citizen Kane" and "Raging Bull." It is not the most enjoyable film experience, but it is certainly one of the most rewarding ones around.

Review: Artists reinvent Michael Jackson's iconic "Thriller"

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Michael Jackson's album "Thriller" is the world's biggest selling album of all time and this is the twenty-fifth anniversary. "Thriller" has been re-released with the complete original album, five remixes, a previously unreleased track, and a DVD with three music videos and Michael Jackson's performance on Motown 25: Yesterday, Today and Forever.

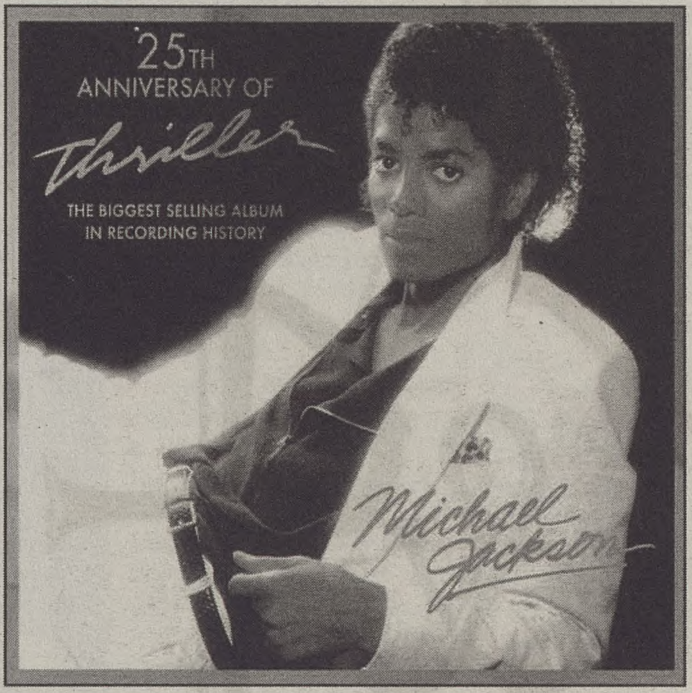
The original album is Michael Jackson. There really is nothing bad that can be said about "Thriller." It won eight Grammys: Album of the Year, Record of the Year "Beat It," Best Male Pop Vocal Performance "Thriller," Best Engineered Recording-Non-Classical "Thriller," Best Male Rock Vocal Performance "Beat It," Best Male R&B Vocal Performance "Billie Jean," Best R&B Song "Billie Jean," and Best Engineered Album-Non-Classical. "Thriller" is the best album of all time with timeless songs. The fact that twenty-five years later, the name of songs still rings volumes is a testament to that. People just know titles like, "Billie Jean," "Human Nature," "Thriller," and "Beat It." The original album is perfection.

Doing a remix to a Michael Jackson song is a hard thing because he is so notable. When the audience hears it, they automatically think of the original and compare what they are listening to the original. The remixes on "Thriller" just do not hold up. Will.I.Am is featured on the remix to "The Girl is Mine" and "P.Y.T. (Pretty Young Thing)." He is good at remixes, but Michael Jackson songs are not your average songs and he should have brought his "A" game to this project. This is Michael Jackson, not Fergie, and his performance on both songs was lackluster.

Fergie is on the remix to "Beat It" and she sounds like, Fergie. Fergie is a hit or miss performer. There is rarely a middle ground. This was a miss for her. She sounded nervous at points in the song and like she was trying to sound like Michael Jackson. It sounded like she was trying to sing like him, not with him, and the song suffered. Fergie is not the ideal selection for a duet with Michael Jackson anyway.

Akon messes up "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin." Like, Will.I.Am, he should have brought his "A" game, and this just sounded like something he threw together at the last minute and made sure to put his signature "Konvict" label on. It should have been much better.

Kanye West's rendition of "Billie Jean" should have been better as well. His song sounded like a sample that he wanted to use for a rap song. It sounded like a sample, but it wasn't, hurting the quality of the song as a whole. The remixes simply showed that "Thriller" was a wonderful album that should never be touched. The remixes, in comparison to the originals are horrible. They are all songs that you can skip.



"For All Time" is a previously unreleased track that was recorded for the original "Thriller" album and it is great. I can't see why it was left off because it is loving and heartfelt and pure Michael Jackson before he went crazy.

The accompanying DVD is wonderful. It has the short films, "Billie Jean," "Beat It," and "Thriller." These films take you back to when you first saw them and if you were afraid of "Thriller." The live performance of Michael Jackson performing "Billie Jean" at Motown 25: Yesterday, Today and Forever is magnificent. His introduction of the Moon Walk is what makes this performance stay classic.

"Thriller" is a classic album and aside from the bland remixes, this Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Edition is magnificent. It makes me want to break out my red jacket, glove, sequined socks, patent leather shoes and give a show.

Satire: How to avoid pesky, money-grubbing Girl Scouts

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

It's that time of the year again. Your supermarkets are no longer safe. Something dangerous is there and it isn't E. coli, mad cow disease or drugged up chickens. It is the invasion of the Girl Scouts.

Lock your doors and bar your windows because it's just not safe out there. Only venture to supermarkets if you MUST!

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Girl Scouts, let me tell you - they are like Jehovah's witnesses on crack! Or in this case, sugar! They bum rush the average shopper with a perky attitude and a sash covered in buttons as their doting mother sits behind a "cookie table" smiling and taking the money of the victim.

After over a decade of being accosted by Girl Scouts, I have some ways to help out those who brave the elements and venture out to the location of the Girl Scouts.

1. Buy a box. Well, that way can get expensive if you were to buy a box from every girl you see, but that is the easiest way to be left alone.

2. Keep a box with you. It doesn't matter if your box is empty or full, keep it with you and when approached just tell the girl that she's late.

3. Beat them to the punch. Walk up to a Girl Scout with a raffle ticket and ask her if she'd like to buy a raffle ticket. If you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

4. Place a phone to your ear and walk fast. If they can't catch you, you can't be asked the question. This will also work if you just run in the store as fast as you can.

5. Give a presentation of how Girl Scout cookies are responsible for obesity in America. This requires one of those tri-boards that you had in high school. Have charts, graphs, and the whole nine. Hold a presentation on how you will not take part in something that has terrible consequences for the country.

6. Make them cry. Yell and scream. You have to be pretty heartless, but you will be left alone. When they ask you if you want to buy cookies, just start screaming like Britney Spears at the paparazzi on a bad day. Drop some f-bombs and you'll be left alone.

7. Ignore them. Just walk past them at a normal rate as if you don't see them. The mom may shoot you a dirty look, but act as if you could care less. Indifference is key here.

Whatever your method, I wish you well as you encounter them.

THE
BIG
EVENT

March 29, 2008

Sign up today!

Help make a difference
in the Highland Area

9:30 am Kick-off - Quad
10:30 am - Tool distribution
and work until 3 pm.
3-5 pm Community-wide
celebration with hot-dogs
and burgers on Jones Rice.

Sign-ups can be with a
team or individually. Check
out:
www.centenary.edu
/bigevent

**Free t-shirts, free food,
and making a difference!**

Ben Folds performing at Centenary in April

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Fighting Squirrels officially announced Thursday that Ben Folds will be performing at the Gold Dome on April 4, confirming what The Conglomerate and KSCL already reported based on his fan club website.

The date is the same as Preview Weekend for Centenary, when hundreds of prospective students come to see the College. The concert serves as Fighting Squirrels Productions' annual spring event - in the past, they've brought Better Than Ezra and The Terms to campus in these concerts.

Fighting Squirrels held a car wash over the weekend to raise funds for the concert. Tickets will cost $15 in advance and $20 online (centenarytickets.com) and at the door. According to Mary Walter, tickets will be on sale in the Admissions and Student Life Offices starting next week, and online starting Monday, March 10.

Jon Schleuss, who originally broke the news of the date on the fan club website for KSCL, has advised interested students to hurry up and get tickets because "this show will most likely sell out," he said, adding "great job to the Fighting Squirrels for bring in a good act."

Several Centenary alumni and community members have also commended the student production organization for their find and/or expressed jealousy at not being able to attend.

Ben Folds fronted the piano rock trio Ben Folds Five, who received critical acclaim and mainstream popularity with hits such as "Kate," "Brick," and "Army."

Ben Folds has released five solo albums, including the songs, "Rockin' the Suburbs," "Still Fighting It," and "Jesusland." His innovative cover of Snoop Dogg's "Bitches Ain't Shit" also reached the top of the iTunes charts.

What really grinds my gears: annoying, misleading commercials

Jaya Sharma, in her best Peter Griffin impersonation ("Family Guy")
Contributing Writer

You know what really grinds my gears? That Dunkin' Donuts commercial. The one where they claim to be better because you can order coffee "in English" as opposed to the grande-venti "Fritalian" used at Starbucks. Then they go on to advertise their latte is only 99 cents or something. HELLO! Latte's not English either! It's French or something. Les idiots.

And that Toyota Corolla commercial with the guy in the car who's locked in with sleeping badgers? Then the badgers wake up because his cell phone rings and we're left with his screams being heard outside the car? That really grinds my gears. Why not just let the guy out. Has he been a bad boy? Does he deserve punishment? Badgers get a bad rep in that commercial too. I mean by virtue of their name they're already expected to be pushy animals, so why they gotta make them even more unlikeable? It's so unnecessary.

And while we're on the subject, does anyone actually go out a buy a car because it's on sale? It's not cheese. I would buy cheese on sale. Even if I did just find out it's mold. Gross. I hate when car salesmen on TV yell at me. Is that effective advertising? It just makes me violent. I want to take the ties around their necks and use them to swing the salesmen around over my head, much like I would twirl a lasso in the air. But I can't, because people would think that's rude. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is what grinds my gears.

SPORTS

Jabber: Brett Favre packs it up

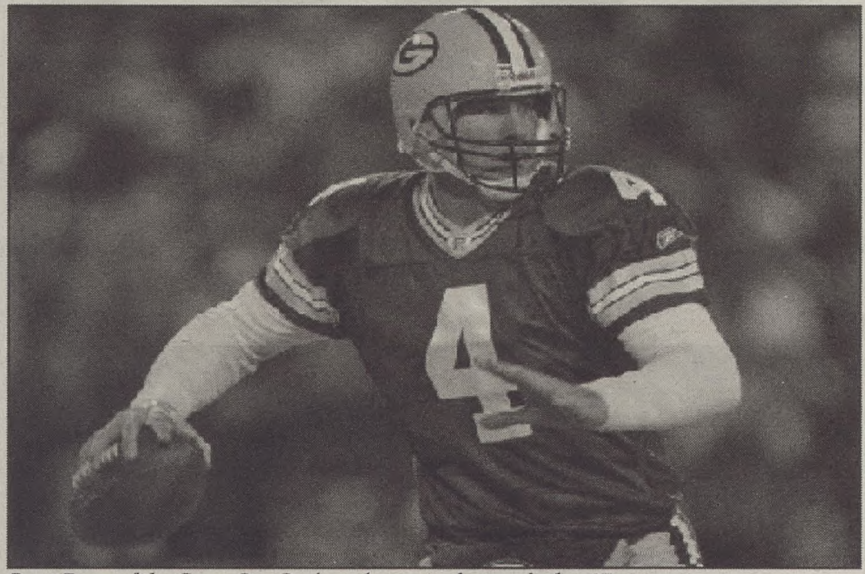
Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

For years beloved quarterback Brett Favre has been on the ropes of whether or not to throw in the big towel. The Green Bay Packer quarterback, after an incredible 17-season stint, called it quits this past Tuesday. A shocked Green Bay mourned after news hit major television stations. His presence there was God-like, and to see him go after nearly snagging a spot in this years' Super Bowl took a toll on the entire city. During the 2007 season, Favre set records for passing touchdowns (442), passing yards (61,655), wins by a starting QB (160) and–painfully–interceptions (288).

"Brett Favre will always be remembered as one of the greatest players and fiercest competitors in NFL history," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said in a statement. "His long list of accomplishments both on and off the field are remarkable. Brett's talent, enthusiasm and love of the game helped him become the only player to earn three MVP awards and he was vital part of bringing a Super Bowl championship back to Green Bay." The Packers, under Favre's regime, won Super Bowls in 1996, 1997, and was named to nine Pro Bowls.

Brett's home of Hattiesburg, Mississippi was shocked as well by the news of his retirement. The town's news stations and local press had no want in disturbing the Packer as he announced his retirement. Kids of the town were upset to hear that Brett had called it quits after so many years, "When I found out it was actually true I was kind of disappointed," said a local high school senior. "I mean, I've looked up to the guy. He's a legend. He's one of the best quarterbacks to ever play the game."

Fans at Centenary were also affected by the tragic news of retirement. Junior Naomi Will was shocked to hear the news. "It's a sad day for Packers fans all over the world. He was the backbone of this team, and it's just not going to be the same seeing no number 4 on the field."


Brett Favre of the Green Bay Packers throws in the towel after 17 years.

Kevin Wagner–being born, raised, and a share holder of the Packers–had a somber look upon his face as I went to ask him about his thoughts of loss. "He was what the Packers are. The reason everyone in Wisconsin loved him so much is because he was flawed; he was like us. We grew up as kids hearing about Lambardi and how the golden era was long past, but then came this number 4 and he was our Lambardi!" His excitement tickled me as I saw the twinkle in his eye start to shine. "Him leaving is like watching your favorite hero riding off into the sunset. No other team will ever compete with the Packers in any shape or form."

As a kid, watching Troy and the "boys" play in Dallas was always something I could count on. Whenever the Cowboys played the Packers, there was no love or admiration for Brett as he threw the ball down the field. But as a fan, supporter, and lover of the game I was privileged to have watched this amazing athlete throughout his 17-season career.

Women's basketball player named to All-Newcomer Team

GoCentenary.com
Source: Centenary Sports Information

ELMHURST, Ill. – After starting all 28 games and scoring 11.6 points per contest as a freshman, Centenary women's basketball student-athlete Anne Farrell was named to The Summit League's All-Newcomer Team. The all-league voting was done by the conference coaches, sports information directors and media members.

The Tulsa, Okla., native scored 324 points and grabbed 198 rebounds in the regular season. Both statistics ranked her in the top 10 in a season at Centenary. If the year would end today, she would also have her name in the average rebounds in a season category, with 7.1

Farrell scored in double figures 19 times this season and had two double-doubles, scoring 25 points and grabbing 13 rebounds at McNeese State, while adding to her resume at home against Oakland by scoring 10 points and pulling down 12 rebounds.

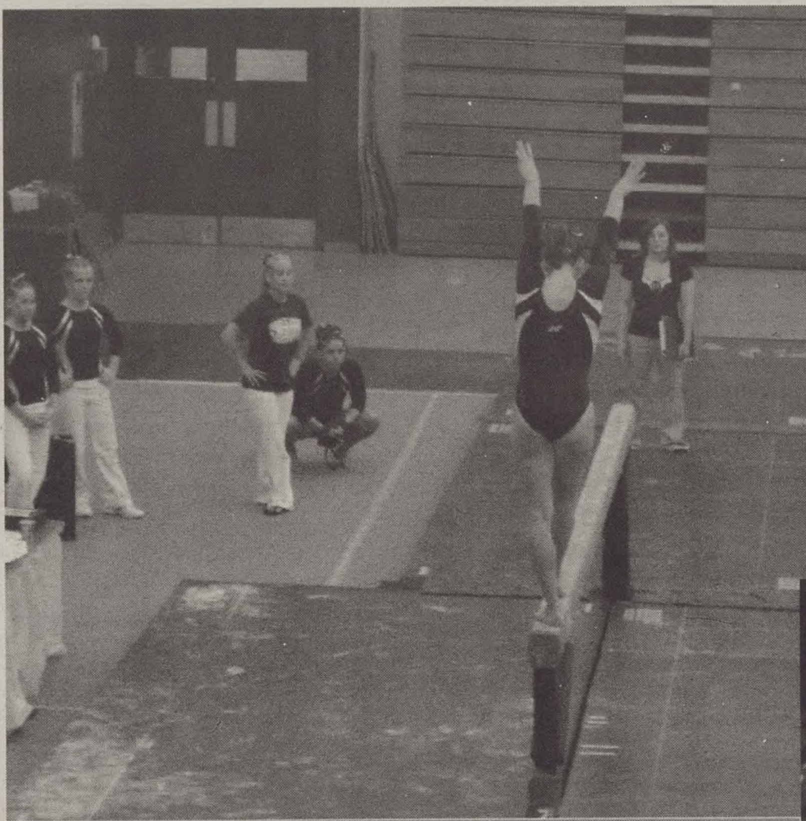
Adding to her plate, Farrell also went 11 games without missing a free throw (34-of-34) and she also played the entire contest four times. Against McNeese, Farrell played in 46 of a possible 50 minutes in the double overtime heartbreaking loss.

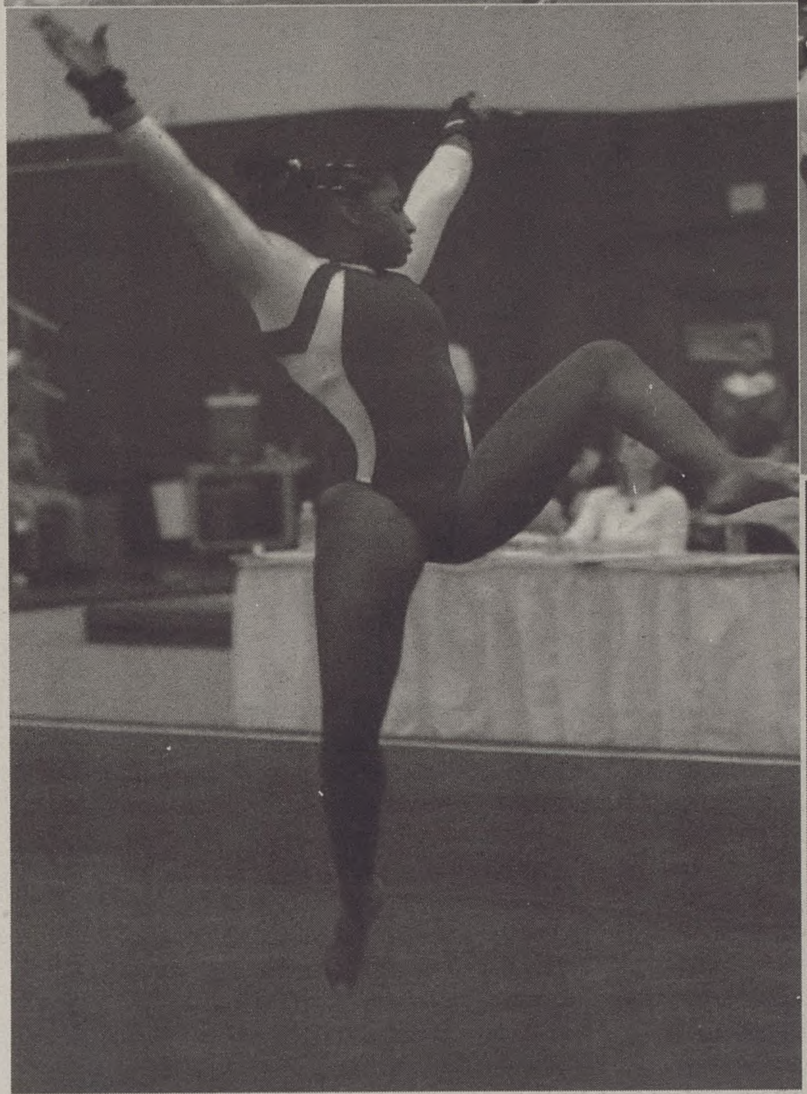
"I am very pleased Anne received this honor," said head coach Steve Curtis. "She had an outstanding freshman season and we look forward to her continuing improvement as our program moves forward."

"With that said, I'm disappointed she wasn't named Newcomer of the Year since Anne led all newcomers in scoring, rebounding and field goal percentage," Curtis continued to say. "I'm also very sad Ashley Jackson wasn't named to the team, as she was among the conference leaders in five different statistical categories and was fourth in scoring among newcomers and third in rebounding. I am proud of Anne, Ashley and Karolina Zaloga, who led all Summit League newcomers in assists and the rest of our team as well."

The Ladies will next play in the first round of The Summit League Championship on Saturday against Oakland at noon in Tulsa.

Congratulations to the Gymnastics team for achieving their highest team score of the season.





Top left and right photos taken by Mindy McKoin. Bottom left photo from GoCentenary.com.

Seussical the Musical

First United Methodist Church Performing Arts Center
(Texas Street, downtown)

7:30pm Friday-Saturday
2:00pm matinee Saturday
2:30pm matinee Sunday

Tickets are $12 for adults, $8 for students, seniors, and military
Box office (318) 429-6885
Hours 12-4 pm

Centenary students performing in the play:
Kaitlyn Westerhaus and Christine Linschoten

Students performing in the orchestra:

Cody Andrews, Connor Davis, Peyton Davis, Lindsey Hotaling, Kirk Reedstrom, and Ruben Reyes

The Conglomerate presents: The life of a student athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writers

Coming off of two big wins against Grambling State and an even better win against I-20 rival Louisiana Tech this past week, we seemed to be smooth sailing and on the right track nearing Summit League play.

All three games tested our mental and physical strengths as we battled near exhaustion and fatigue from several long weeks. Heading into last Tuesday, we were riding an exciting win against Boston University in the University of Houston Marriott Classic.

After taking both games from Grambling, a 2-1 and 5-1 win; we headed back to Shreveport for a day to prepare for our home opener on our field for the first time all season. Being on the road for the first eighteen games, then playing at home against no one better than Louisiana Tech was a much-needed moment.

We worked hard and had our most effective and exciting practice thus far last Wednesday in preparation for the Lady Techsters. Our new facilities are finally completed with an enhanced look to our softball field. The new dugouts look amazing and I know for a fact it means so much more to play on a field that compliments our style of play.

Thursday came and we were ready and energized to open our home facilities to the community and softball fans and of course take another win from Louisiana Tech (two in one week).

By far the game had to be one of the quickest I have played in a while. Less than 90 minutes, we were walking off the field in smiles after a 1-0 win over the team from Ruston, Louisiana. Several key plays, a few clutch hits, and a dominating pitching performance proved to be all we needed to sneak past and build on our win streak making it four wins long.

Freshman Bonnie Matak stepped up big and delivered a huge leadoff double, which in turn resulted in a run sacrificed off a fly ball to right field by senior Lauren Flowers. Defensively, we were unstoppable, making diving catches, snags at first base, and taking away the slap offense that La Tech relies on so often.

I can't praise sophomore pitcher Ryan Thacker enough right now. Not only did she throw a shutout (once again), she pitched a one-hitter, walking only one batter, and striking out six. She is continuing to be a dominating force on the mound and has been able to keep us in several games lately. Her composure and ability to throw many different pitches to any batter has led us to this win streak thus far. Once again she was named Summit League Pitcher of the Week, so congrats to her. It might seem silly, but being my roommate this year, Ryan and I have a pretty tight bond on and off the field, as we have been friends since our traveling ball days at the age of ten.

We actually were off this past weekend, as we have been on the road playing in several different cities for the past month. A well-deserved break was much needed as I know many of my teammates caught up on sleep and studies and some were able to make the trip to their home towns to visit families.

As you may assume, being a collegiate athlete on a team, you have an unbreakable bond with teammates. You are with them everyday of the school year, on the field, off the field, in the cafeteria, in the dorm rooms. If you have been to one of our games, you might have noticed our support for one another…a great hit, a sac bunt, a walk, a strikeout, a diving catch, or something as simple as a steal. We are there for one another and we plan to take our commitment to this team into Summit League play in just two weeks now and break loose with some big wins.

But before Summit League play opens up, we have a job to take care of this week. We are currently playing in Stillwater, Oklahoma at Oklahoma State's tournament today, Saturday, and Sunday.

"I come to play everyday." – David Ortiz, Boston Red Sox

Gents tennis play first game on new courts

GoCentenary.com
Source: Centenary Sports Information

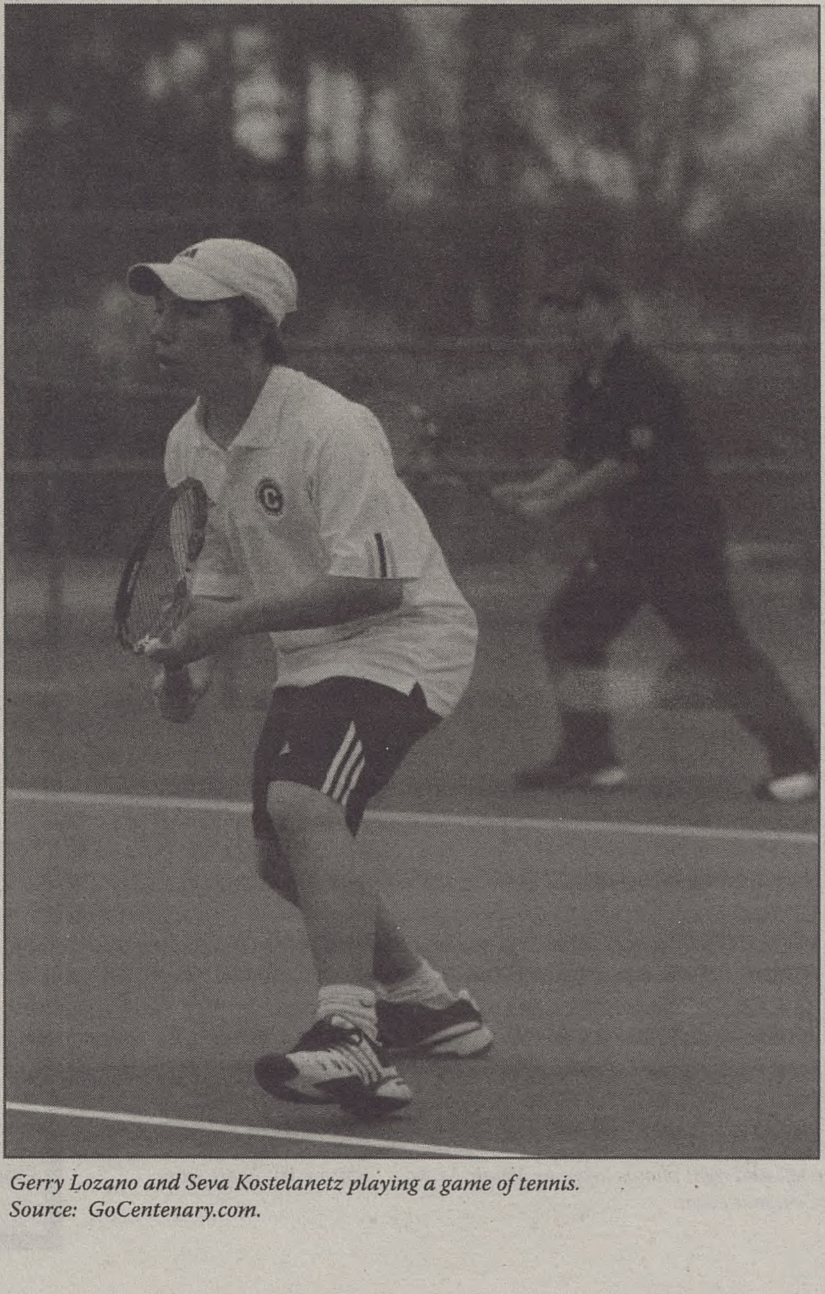
SHREVEPORT—Hosting its first home match of the season on its newly resurfaced courts, the Centenary men's tennis team took a loss to Lamar University on Wednesday evening. The visiting Cardinals downed the Gents 7-0.

Centenary's top individual player, Mark Rodgman, gave Lamar's No. 1 player, Filip Kanczula all he could handle. Yet, in the end, Rodgman fell 7-5, 6-2 in what would be the hottest contested individual match of the day.

Alejandro Ahuja lost 6-2, 6-4 in the second slot and Jacob Dawson fell 6-4, 6-1 in the third flight.

In doubles action, the Gents top tandem of Rodgman and Dawson put up a spirited fight against the 25th-ranked team from Lamar of Kanczula and Maciej Bogusz before losing 8-5. Centenary's duo of Ahuja and Seva Kostelanetz lost in the third flight 8-2.

The Gents return to action on March 9th with a pair of road matches at Southeastern Louisiana and LSU.



Gerry Lozano and Seva Kostelanetz playing a game of tennis.
Source: GoCentenary.com.

Fulham is the team to watch in this season's relegation battle

Jonathan Hedley
Contributing Writer

English Premier League:

Fulham – the team to watch in this season's relegation battle

As the EPL season moves into its final quarter, the competition is beginning to produce those tense moments that make this sport the beautiful game it is, and as usual there are treats galore in store for the neutral observers. But contrary to popular opinion, the top of the table is not the only place worth focusing your attention on. While the majority of football fans already have their minds set on the ethereal thing that is 'next season' and a lucky few prepare for the nail-biting prospect of victory or failure at the final hurdle, there is also a large section of supporters who are banking their hopes on glory of a less glamorous kind – premiership survival.

While teams that are currently mid-table have very little to play for at this stage of the season, those at the bottom end are frantically trying to pick up the precious points that will keep them out of the bottom three on May 10th. While the stars of Arsenal, Manchester Utd and Chelsea pit their pyrotechnical football skills against each other, lovers of a more scrappy, passion-induced and frankly, panic-stricken variety of football should focus their attention on this season's relegation battle.

Right in the thick of this season's dog fight are Fulham, the relatively small, west London club who have enjoyed tenuous premiership status for the last seven years and now languish second bottom of the league with 19 points - seven points from safety. The only team below them is Derby, who came up from the Championship as play-off winners last season but are now marooned sixteen points from safety. Derby are, in technical terms, a goner. They have as much chance of premiership survival as Ron Paul does of becoming president.

Fulham on the other hand, have it all to play for. Although they have never been in quite such hot water as they are in now, they are seasoned relegation scrappers, and there are no fewer than seven teams within ten points of them, any of whom could fail to capitalise on the few opportunities for points that will be up for grabs in the remaining games.

For those of you unfamiliar with soccer-football terminology, there is a strange and wonderful mathematical anomaly that manifests itself at this stage of the season for any team with something left to fight for – it's called the six-pointer. A league win carries three points, but a league win against a close rival also signifies three points that said rival doesn't get. I don't need to explain this do I? You have league tables in America.

Fulham have several six-pointers to look out for – matches against fellow strugglers desperate for points that will promise the panic-stricken entertainment and inspired heroics rarely seen at the other end of the table. Saturday March 22nd sees the first of these vicious encounters with a less than appetising trip the length of the country to Newcastle - a hostile ground if ever there was one. Two weeks later they entertain Newcastle's local rivals sunderland, thankfully at home in London. Immediately after that, they go to Reading – currently their nearest rivals for survival. If things still aren't resolved by then, which they probably won't be, there's the final Clinton/Obama-style do or die scrap against Birmingham on May 3rd – the second last match of the season, when three points might as well be three thousand.

It could well come down to the final game of the season and if it does, I recommend you watch it.

Interesting things you probably don't know about Fulham

Fulham have no less than five American players in their squad, more than any other team in the league: Veteran goalkeeper Kasey Keller; defender Carlos Bocanegra; midfielder Clint Dempsey; and strikers Brian McBride and Eddie Johnson. They also have Canadian defender Paul Stalteri, just in case you're interested.

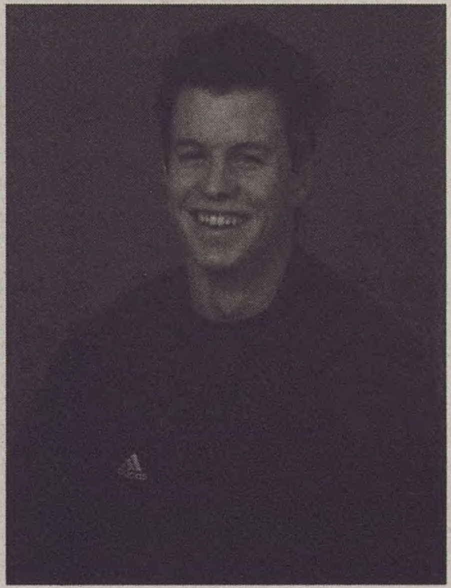
Fulham lay in relative football obscurity from 1968 until 1997 when the club was bought by millionaire businessman Mohamed Al-Fayed. Three promotions in five years brought them into the Premiership by 2001. Mohamed Al-Fayed owns Harrods, the famous London store, but has recently hit the news for other reasons. His son, Dodi Fayed, was engaged to the late Diana, Princess of Wales, and died with her that fateful night in Paris in 1997. Mohamed Al-Fayed has always maintained that the couple were murdered by British secret services. He recently accused Prince Phillip, the Queen's husband, of directly instrumenting the assassination, with the motive that the royal family could not bear the thought of Diana marrying and possibly even conceiving to a Muslim.

Manager Roy Hodgson has one of the most colourful resumes in football, having coached no less than fifteen different teams since 1976, including Italian giants Inter Milan twice and the national sides of Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and Finland.

Last but not least, Fulham are Daniel Radcliffe's (aka Harry Potter) favourite team.

So if you're American, Muslim or a 'Danrad' groupie, or any combination of the three, then Fulham are the team to adopt in this season's fight to beat the drop; while if you're a neutral looking for a fight to the death in the good old-fashioned American way, this is where you're most likely to find it.

Athlete of the Week: Baseball player is boyish and quixotic



Allison McClain
Staff Writer

Name: James Cameron Penney
Classification: SR
Hometown: Valley Center, CA
Sport: Baseball Position: INF Jersey #: 27
Major: Communication

What is something no one knows about you? I like to sleep in polo shirts.

How does Louisiana compare to California? It doesn't, but I like the people.

If you could play any other sport, what would it be? I would participate in the Luge.

What do you look forward to most this season? Warm weather.

What game do you look forward to most this season? Our first regional.

If you could be blood brothers with any of your teammates, who would it be? The whole team, it would be a blood brethren.

Hobbies, besides playing baseball... Riding motorcycles, wakeboarding, and vacationing

Describe yourself in three words. Scrumdidilyumtious, boyish, and quixotic

Favorite food, color, and vacation spot... Mexican, mahogany, and Mexico.

What do you see yourself doing in 5 years? Celebrating the five year anniversary of getting asked this question.

WORD SEARCH:
BEATLES LOVE

S	M	R	K	I	T	E	A	A	F	E	U	L	K	E	Z	H	X	B
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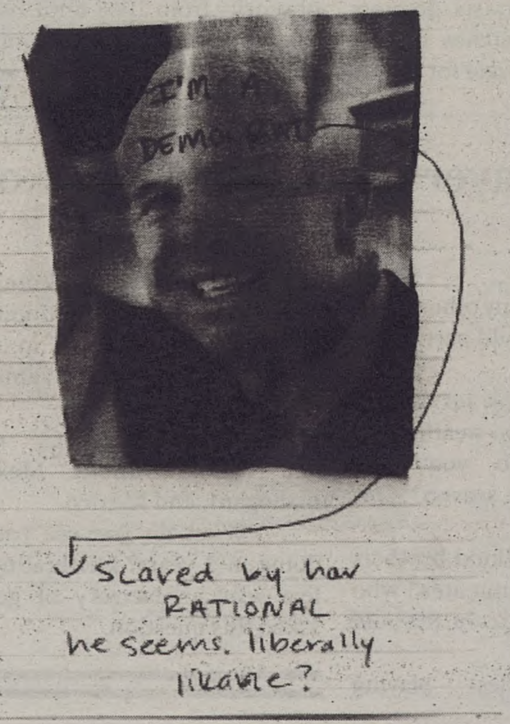
Blackbird - Come Together - George - Get Back - HELP - Helter Skelter - Hey Jude - John - Let it Be - Lucy - Mr Kite - Paul - Penny Lane - Prudence - Ringo - Silver Hammer - Strawberry Fields - Walrus - Yellow Submarine - Yesterday

Centenary Secrets

In order to participate, take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box 786 or slip it under the Conglomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.



Scared by how
RATIONAL
he seems. liberally
likable?

Horoscopes

Pisces (2/20-3/20) Tie your shoelaces together, hop around in a circle, and yell out the Centenary Fight song (learn it!), this will greatly increase your chances of completing the Student Satisfaction Survey.

Aries (3/21-4/20) Stay away from all cleaning products, they will do you great harm this week. In fact, to be on the safe side, don't bathe either. You never know what negative side effects soap might cause. Oh, and don't forget to do the Student Satisfaction Survey.

Taurus (4/21-5/21) Pie graphs will irk you, but plain old pie will solve all of your problems. Don't forget to do the Student Satisfaction Survey.

Gemini (5/22- 6/21) Stay away from Aries.... they stink! Don't forget to do the Student Satisfaction Survey.

Cancer (6/22-7/23) Every hour that you waste not filling out he Student Satisfaction Survey a leopard loses its legs, falls out of a tree and traumatizes any passerbys. Do you really want that on your conscience.

Leo (7/24-8/23) You have so many probems these days that all of your friends have abandoned you. What should you do? The answer is simple, complete the Student Satisfaction Survey.

Virgo (8/24-9/23) Venus is barely peeking out from behind Saturn's massive shadow and Mars just lost fifty bucks to Neptune. What does all of this mean? It is an opportune time to look into doing that Student Satisfaction Survey.

Libra (9/24) Yes, I know the weather is bothersome and you just want to stay inside. I have the perfect solution. Pop a bag of pop corn, snuggle up in bed and relax as you fill out the Student Satisfaction Survey.

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) What are your plans for the weekend? Hanging out with friends? Have a date? Going home for some "R&R"? Road trip? Completing the Student Satisfaction Survey?

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) There are some things you will never be able to understand and problems you will never be able to solve. Sometimes you have to pick your battles. Feeling down? I know what will cheer you up! Do the Student Satisfaction Survey.

Capricorn (12/22-1/20) I am holding my breath until you finish the Student Satisfaction Survey. You hold my life in your hands. You know what you must do!

Aquarius (1/21-2/19) I'm sure you already did the Student Satisfaction Survey.... right?

Ups and Downs

↑ **CAB**
For a good theme, cute shirts and overall awesome programming througout Spring Fling.

↑ **SGA**
For being incredibly receptive and welcoming to the idea of reviewing the allocation of student fees.

↓ **Louisiana Weather**
For being schizophrenic and making midterms that much more miserable.

↑ **Fighting Squirrels**
For scoring a Ben Folds concert right here on campus.

↓ **Midterms**
For simply existing.

↓ **Facilities/Development**
For the lame, ugly plastic boulders around campus.

Centenary Area Concert Wire

Mar. 8, Saturday
Ryan Davis Band
9:30 PM at Ole Fort Pub
Natchitoches, LA
www.ryandavismusic.com

Mar. 8, Saturday
Billy Joe Shaver Heather Little
Doors @ 7, Show @ 7:30 PM
Crossroads Coffehouse
Winnsboro, TX (~2 hours away)
$25 advance
www.billyjoeshaver.com/
www.myspace.com/heathermarielittle
www.crossroadsmusiccompany.com/

Mar. 8, Saturday
Roger Creager
11 PM @ Gilley's - Dallas, TX
$10 Gen. Adm.
FREE entry from 6-8 PM
http://www.rogercreager.com/
http://www.gilleysdallas.com/

Mar. 12, Wednesday
Christian Simeon & Outlaw Nation
(Acoustic, Reggae)
8 PM
Noble Savage Tavern
Shreveport, LA (Downtown, 417 Texas Street)
FREE
http://myspace.com/outlawnation
http://www.myspace.com/noblesavagetavern

Friday, March 7th
I Wrestled A Bear Once, Harbor The Thief, and Where MoonIS will perform 7 pm on Friday, March 7th
Harlequin Alley.
www.myspace.com/harlequinalley

Saturday, March 8th
Reflections Burn!, Tyrants of Steel, and The Scholars
6 pm on Saturday
Harlequin Alley
www.myspace.com/harlequinalley

Saturday, March 8th
State of Reason, Miser, and Afflicted
10 pm at the Warehouse
www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

Sunday, March 9th
Colour Revolt, Porcelain Arms, The Peekers, Infamous Jaguar Shark, and, Wellington
7 pm at Harlequin Alley
www.myspace.com/harlequinalley

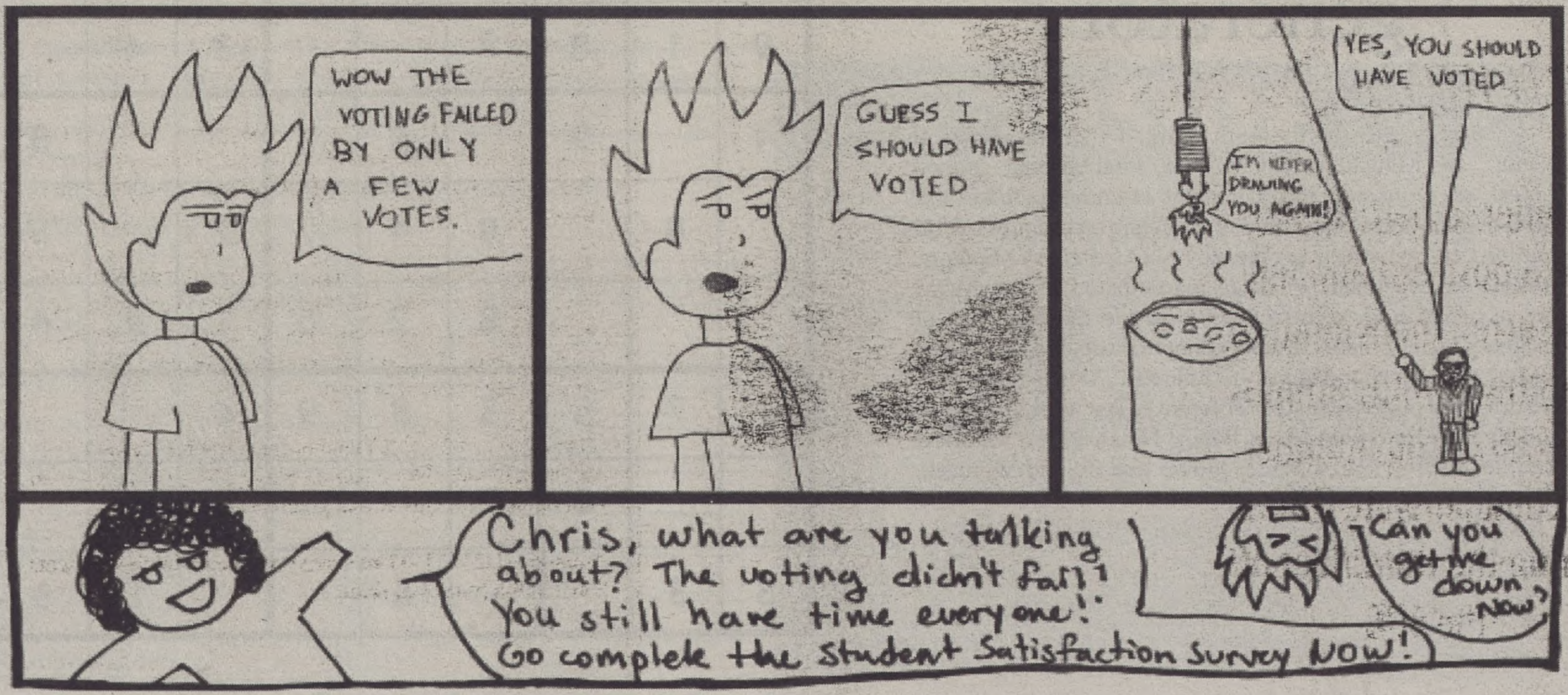
Monday, March 10th
Brooklyn experimental-rock group Parts and Labor will be playing at the JackRabbit Lounge at 8pm.
For more information
call (318) 868-6628

Friday, March 14th
Moira Red, Sweetlake Mafia, and Magna Porta
10 pm at the Warehouse.
www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

A Day with Christ

by Chris Christ

added commentary by Courtney Delaney


WOW THE VOTING FAILED BY ONLY A FEW VOTES.
GUESS I SHOULD HAVE VOTED
I'M NEVER DRAWING YOU AGAIN!
YES, YOU SHOULD HAVE VOTED
Chris, what are you talking about? The voting didn't fail! You still have time everyone! Go complete the Student Satisfaction Survey NOW!
Can you get me down Now?

Strange but true news: a baby is born on train tracks - falling from a moving train

Kat Michiels
Staff Writer

This week, we're back fresh with freaky spiders, killer pythons, a newborn on a train track, and a good ol' fashioned brawl between two mothers in front of their children.

Sometimes, as humans, we hear things that are freakin' hilarious but also sad at the same time. We want to laugh, but know we shouldn't, so we try to suppress our smiles, which usually doesn't work. I'm preparing you. Read on and try to keep a straight face.

In Australia, a 16-foot python crept into the yard of a nice family and consumed their family dog. Not only did it kill the poor terrier-chihuahua, but about halfway through, when its hind legs and tail were still sticking out, the two children, ages 5 and 7, walked out to see it happening. After the horrified children notified their parents, the family called animal control, who came to remove the python. According to the animal experts, the python is a creature that stalks its prey, and it actively stalked the little dog for days.

Speaking of weird animals, British marine experts have found what they think could be the first six-legged octopus. Currently, they're calling it a "hexapus," and they've named their six-legged friend "Henry." Henry appears to have six legs as a result of a birth defect, not an accident, and researchers are checking everywhere to see if anyone has seen a six-legged hexapus before. No previous reports have been found.

Moving on over to insects, a bunch of roses and other flowers delivered to florists in Britain were destroyed after they were found to be absolutely crawling with spiders. The hoards of flowers were being prepared for Mother's Day, which is celebrated on the fourth Sunday after Lent in Britain. Good thing they caught the flowers before it was too late. Mothers already have to pretend they love the ridiculous gifts that they receive, but having to hug your kid for the bouquet while three or four spiders are running over the flowers may have been a hard act to pull off.

Talking about mothers and the love they have to give, in India last week, a woman gave birth to a child on a train. If that's not weird enough for you, the woman happened to be using the restroom at the time. If it's still not enough to make you giggle and cringe, the newborn baby fell out of the toilet hole onto the train tracks below. Many of the trains in India have chutes that drain directly onto the train tracks whenever someone uses the restroom.

The mother, who passed out immediately, was awoken a few stations later by officials knocking on the door. When she opened the door, she was covered in blood and told them what had happened. They immediately pulled the emergency brake and began to look for the baby. Found about two hours later, the little girl was unscathed and alive, although she was about eight weeks premature.

Finally, although not something I would classify as weird, it's always refreshing to know that someone else's mother was worse or more embarrassing than yours. In Massachusetts, two loving moms got into a fight…at Chuck E. Cheese. Apparently, a nine-year-old's birthday party went badly wrong when one mother started a fight with another mother because her son was "hogging" an arcade game that her kid wanted to play. The two were charged with simple assault and battery. Poor kids. Fifteen years from now, they're going to go to Britain to buy flowers for their mothers.

That's it for this week. Make sure to check Sparky's doghouse for huge reptiles, and in honor of mother's everywhere, go visit your local Chuck E. Cheese and beat the crap out of the giant mouse (that's just for kicks, really).

Math students create Sudoku generator

February 14th to the 18th marked the Mathematical Contest in Modeling (MCM), an international annual contest where interdisciplinary teams of undergraduates use mathematical and computational modeling techniques to find solutions to real-world problems. Six Centenary students, working in two teams of three, participated in the MCM this year, and both teams chose to tackle the challenge of designing an automatic Sudoku generator capable of creating puzzles with varying degrees of difficulty. This is one of the difficult-level puzzles created (different to last week's). The six students involved were Justin Bailey, Nolan Baker, Matthew Chumley, Jeffrey James, Stacey Stokes and Roland Womack, advised by Dr. Mark Goadrich.

Sudoku

	6	2		9	1		5	7
	4		6	3	8			
9	1	8	2			3	4	
4		9		5	3			8
	8		9	4	7	2		5
			8	2	6	1	9	4
1	7	5	3	8	9	4		
		6	7					
8	3			6			1	9

The CONGLOMERATE

March 14, 2008 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 21

WAR AND PEACE

Students gather to raise awareness about conflicts in Darfur and Iraq

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Students curious about the 3,000 flags in the quad or the massive banner spelling "LIES" out of playing cards in the shell had the opportunity Wednesday to learn about the issues behind these demonstrations.

On March 12 in the Student Union Building, a panel of three professors and two students discussed the ongoing conflicts in Darfur and Iraq, the two themes of Student Awareness Week.

College Democrats and Amnesty International sponsored this week at Centenary, which began on March 10 and ends today. The quad is currently covered with 3,000 flags, each of which signifies 1,000 displaced or killed Darfuri. The current military conflict in Africa has been ongoing since February 2003 (though the history of the groups involved stretches far before that). The militant Janjaweed, joined by some Sudanese government forces, are fighting rebel groups like the Sudan Liberation Movement and the Justice and Equality Movement.

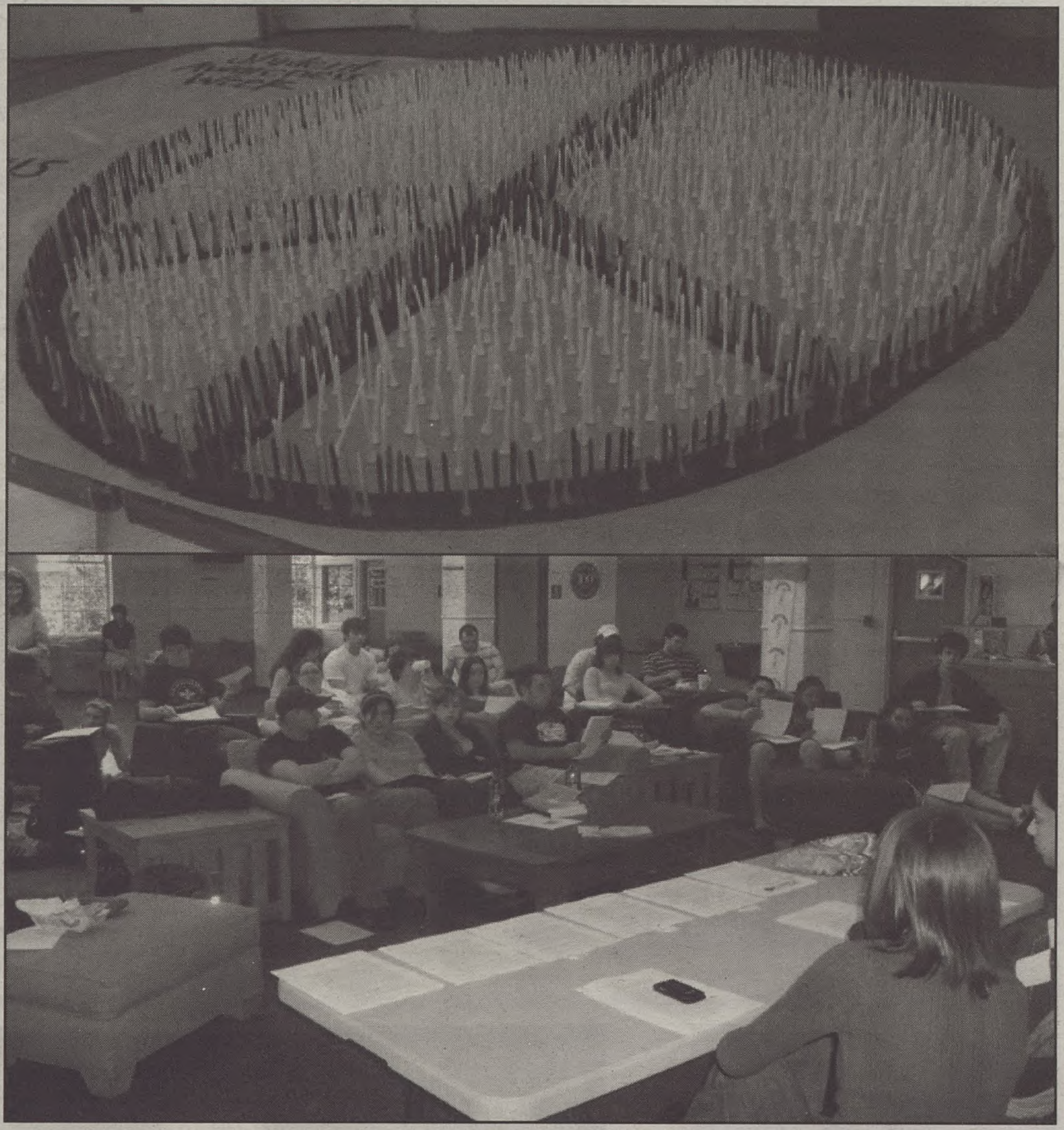
The College Democrats have put up a peace sign in the shell, comprised of 2,000 standing golf tees that honor 4,000 fallen U.S. soldiers in the war in Iraq. A second part of the display is a banner with 935 playing cards spelling out "lies," which references a study recently published by the Center of Public Integrity. The Center studied the statements of President Bush and seven top officials, including Dick Cheney, Condoleezza Rice, and Donald Rumsfeld, from September 11, 2001 to September 11, 2003, and concluded that 935 false statements had been made about the presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and the government's links to Al-Qaeda.

The war in Iraq began on March 19, 2003 - the Democrats' event intentionally coincides with the 5-year anniversary of this date.

"As a college community dedicated to knowledge and connecting with the world, we hope to bring attention to major world issues that many Americans don't know much about," Amnesty International Group Coordinator Megan Ottesen said. "Because the Iraq war affects all of us, not just the soldiers and their families, each American deserves to know exactly why we are sending soldiers to Iraq, how this war could have been avoided, and what the war's long-term consequences may be."

That's precisely what the student-professor panel on Wednesday aimed to do. The entire panel can be heard online in podcast form (www.kscl.blogspot.com).

continued on page 3



Top: 2,000 golf tees comprise a peace sign in the shell honoring 4,000 fallen U.S. soldiers in Iraq, put together by the College Democrats. Photo by Emily DeLatin. Below: Students gather in the SUB for the Darfur-Iraq panel. Photo by Jon Hedley.

INSIDE

The BIG Event calls for Centenary volunteers, page 4

Miss-ter Centenary 2008 is crowned - see photos on page 15

March Madness begins, read more on page 16

We're now online! Visit www.theccconglomerate.com

Letter from the editor: Five years later, it's important to know and learn about Iraq

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

A good friend of mine (ex-boyfriend, actually) served in Iraq for eight months with the Marines. We kept in close contact via email and phone while he was over there. When he came back, he said he had trouble adjusting to normal, non-chaotic, non-warfare, everyday life – not just because of the stark differences in situations but also because of his role in society.

"You get used to having so much power over there," he said. "You feel so much power when you're holding a gun." Changing his role orientation from that of soldier in Operation Iraqi Freedom to that of civilian back in the United States was, to say the least, difficult for him.

Participating in any war has severe emotional and psychological (and often physical) effects on soldiers. Not that his time was all bad – there are sweet pictures of him playing with Iraqi children and puppies, though his uniform and weapons in the photos serve as a bleak reminder of why he was there.

He's also 24 years old. The majority of men and women serving overseas are our age, 18-25, fighting insurgents in a foreign land while we sit comfortably ensconced in our classrooms discussing the consequences of American foreign policy.

These people, according to the American masses and government, deserve a lot: honor, gratitude, understanding, sometimes help. But there's something else they deserve: public knowledge. Knowledge of this war, its causes, its effects, and its potential future state are all important if we are to truly commemorate our soldiers.

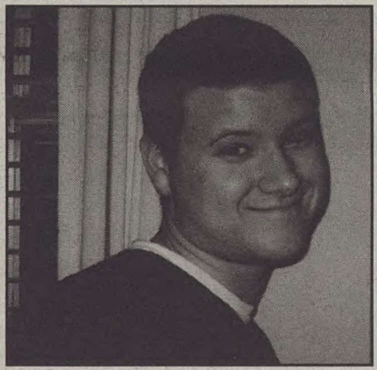
Regardless of whether you support the war or not, if you're a Democrat or Republican, liberal or conservative, everyone needs to take the time and make the effort to know what's going on. I think our age group becoming informed is especially important – were it not for our predecessors, college students who campaigned and protested in the '60s and '70s, we might still have a draft – and many of us would be fighting bombs in Baghdad as well.

The war in Iraq began on March 19, 2003 – it'll be five years in just a few days. For better or for worse, this war has changed the political landscape of our time. As one of the most courted voting groups for presidential elections, logging online and spending a few minutes learning about it is the least we can do.

Question of the Week

HOW WOULD YOU SPEND STUDENT FEES?

"Have a coffeehouse/bar for students to hang out on campus."
-Clayton Carter,
Sophomore

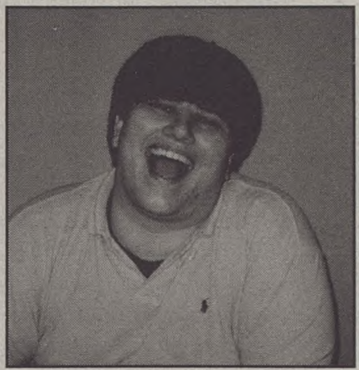


"Give Dr. Grunes a raise."
-James King,
Senior

"More hot straight male students."
-Jessica Cosenza,
Junior

"Buy more color printers on campus and get a SGA card with good discounts."
-Leslie Clampitt,
Junior

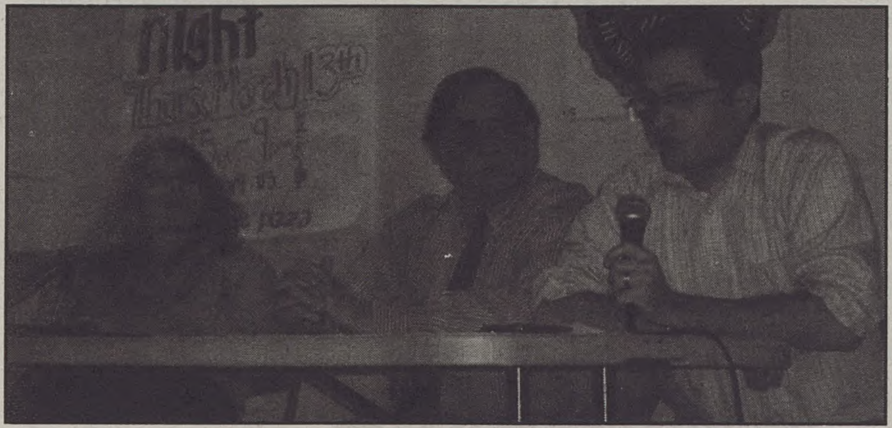
"Have cupcakes everyday in the caf."
-Nicole Clifton,
Junior



"Hire another science professor."
-Sam Timpa,
Junior

FEATURES

War and peace in Darfur and Iraq, continued from front page



"I thought the panel was an outstanding success," said College Democrats President Nadine Kaskas. "We had a really good exchange of ideas, all the speakers played off of each other well, presenting varying viewpoints, and the students were engaged and attentive. The event was a success in terms of increasing student awareness on campus about the issues – 45 people showed up!"

As for the Focus on Darfur, Ottesen said "every college student should know what Darfur means and why we should care that genocide occurs. The demonstrations in the Quad and the Shell illustrate the large scope of these conflicts."

To find out more information about the Center for Public Integrity's study, visit www.publicintegrity.org/WarCard.

To find out more about Darfur and what you can do to help, visit http://www.amnestyusa.org/.

SELECT REMARKS

Megan Ottesen, Group Coordinator for Amnesty International

"Out of the 9,000 soldiers in the U.N. peacekeeping force, 7,000 are African. They don't have the equipment they need."

"Donations will help the symptoms but not the conflict."

Dr. Kim VanHoosier-Carey, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Academic Resource Center for Students

On why we should care about Darfur: "I hope we're decent human beings…for global stability…the U.S. has set itself up as something in the world [in terms of international conflicts]…"

Dr. Rodney Grunes, Chair of the Department of Political Science and History:

"Two to three trillion dollars of tax money has been diverted to this war. That would have kept social security viable until 2080. This war affects more than those asked to fight it. It affects our future."

"The longer we stay, the more additional regional conflicts arise."

"The terrible tragedy of removing Saddam Hussein [was that he maintained] stability. Now they have to make their own democracy."

On how Democrats favor strong executive powers: "The Democrats weren't duped – they wanted to believe those lies, because a strong President is a good President."

"Where were 17 of the 21 [9/11 bombers] from? Saudi Arabia. This [Iraq] was a war of choice."

Dr. Chris Ciocchetti, Associate Professor of Philosophy:

"After 9/11, the urge to get our own back created a shame-rage spiral. You can see Bush's responses to 9/11 are driven by this. It's not very surprising that the response was violence."

On why Democrats or opponents of the war don't get the public outrage they hope for when they highlight false statements, or why backward-looking considerations (placing blame) aren't that effective: "Emphasizing the lies and mistakes emphasizes our vulnerability and our weakness. I want to point in another direction – forward-looking. A policy of compassion, equality, and vulnerability aims to produce a good result. [Americans and Iraqis] need to recognize that we're interdependent and vulnerable to each other in lots of ways."

For more photos of the panel and demonstrations, see page 10.

Pictured: (top, left to right) Dr. Kim VanHoosier-Carey, Dr. Rodney Grunes, and Dr. Chris Ciocchetti all speak on the darfur and Iraq panel. Photo by Jon Hedley. (below) Amnesty's 3,000 flags in the quad. Photo by Mindy McKoin.

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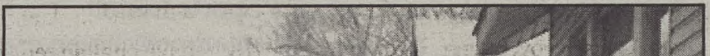
The BIG Event: community and culture in the Highlands

Amanda Russell
Staff Writer

What are YOU doing on March 29, 2008? Since it's a Saturday some of you may be sleeping, catching up on some much needed zzzz's lost during the first week back from break. Some students may be nursing hangovers or getting up early to go to work. For everyone else, the BIG Event will provide you with an alternative to the 'weekend blues' and serves as a great way to connect with the Centenary community and Highland area residents through good old-fashioned community service projects.

Everyone's seen the BIG Event publicity (those buttons are so cute), but many students are still confused exactly what the BIG Event is and how they can get involved. Here's everything you ever wanted to know about the BIG Event and so much more...

WHAT: The BIG Event is essentially a community service day. To help celebrate Centenary's centennial in Shreveport/Bossier, SGA president Holly Williams, the BIG Event Committee, and the Student Government Association have planned a community service project that will help Centenary's neighbors in the historic Highland district (for the geography-illiterate among us, the Highland area district are the homes and neighborhoods surrounding Centenary.).



The BIG Event Committee has requested household jobs from residents that live near the college. These will consist of small projects such as painting shutters, raking, preparing for new paint, cleaning sidewalks, etc. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni will pick up tools and supplies on Centenary's campus and then go to the particular job sites and complete the requested tasks.

The BIG event committee consists of Naomi Will, Ashley Johnston, Cory Goodwin, Ally Gann, Hannah Moore, Jennifer Pate, Caitlin Hogan, Morgana Broussard, Matthew Wallace, Brittany Barbee, Madison Hoover, and Director Holly Williams.

Upon completion of the projects, a "BIG Event Celebration" will be held for our Highland neighbors, featuring food, entertainment, and fun.

WHEN and WHERE: Saturday, March 29, 2008.

Wake up early for the Kickoff Pep Rally in the quad at 9:30 am. President Schwab will speak and thank the donors. Music and dancing will get the day started, and all donors will receive breakfast, pick up their t-shirts, water, and snacks (and sign a release form).

From 10:00 to 10:30 a.m., tool distribution will take place at the Fitness Center. Cars of teams will drive through the Fitness Center parking lots to pick up supplies from SGA senators.

THE
BIG
EVENT
March 29, 2008
Centenary College

From 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., each BIG Event team will work at their job sites.

At 3:00 p.m. on Jones-Rice Field, the BIG Event Community Celebration will be held. There will be three inflatable obstacle courses, hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks. The Battle of the Bands will also be held in the Shell at this time, so come enjoy some music. This will be fun for the whole neighborhood.

WHO: Each job site will be tackled by a BIG Event 'team.' Each team will consist of approximately ten individuals and will be made up of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members. Team members will receive a complementary t-shirt. If you don't have ten people to form a team, that's okay! Individuals are more than welcome to sign up and will be placed on a team. As of Monday, 145 volunteers were signed up; however, to complete the requested jobs, the BIG Event needs 300 volunteers! To sign up via electronic form, go to https://secure.centenary.edu/bigevent, or email thebigevent@centenary.edu to receive a paper form. If you have any questions about forming a team, direct them to Holly Williams at hwilliam@centenary.edu.

HOW: The BIG Event budget is approximately $10,000. This money will go to purchase the initial publicity, supplies, and tools that will then be recycled throughout the years. This makes the start-up costs of subsequent BIG Events significantly less than this initial kick-off in 2008. The BIG Event committee has used some SGA funds, but most of the money will come from community donors who include thus far Boots Construction, Kilpatrick Life Insurance, Banners Plus Sign Center, AEP-SWEPCO, Roy James, CPA, Pierce Decorative Concrete, Wilhite Electric, and JDJ Sales.

PURPOSE: To boost the morale and spirits of the Centenary community and provide an opportunity for interaction between students, faculty, staff, and local residents.

If you don't come to the BIG, you may not really lose anything. Sure you can sleep late and do laundry, but why wouldn't you want to team up with Centenary folks – past and present – in a HUGE event that puts our college on the map in terms of serving the community. Join the BIG Event if for no other reason than to put a smile on a person's face that just can't afford to fix their home or is incapable of doing yard work. Come to the BIG Event; do it for Centenary, but mostly, do it for yourself.

Photo: Jennifer Pate with Highland resident Peter Ballas, whose house is included in the BIG Event. Credit: Holly Williams.

Hardin Hall Council goes above and beyond the call of duty

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

Just in the last year, Hardin Hall Council has made drastic upgrades and improvements for their residents. Not only have they upgraded their study room, added a printer, and started a recycling program, but they have also repainted their lobby and put up icicle lights on the porch. In the past they added a beautiful swing to the porch, but no improvement compares to the many they have already done this year, and it's only the beginning of March.

Hardin Hall Council President Rebekah Gagnard said, "It all started with a proposal to the Muses for a laser printer/copier for $200. Then we converted our unused kitchenette room into a study room by getting rid of the table and chairs."

Ultimately, this small project catapulted into more improvements when Hardin talked to Brian Baker, the Head of Facilities, to get an L-shaped formica counter-top table for the study room.

"We also bought carpet for the study room to help absorb the sound, and Facilities installed it for us. After that, we had the wallpaper torn down and discovered the walls were beginning to mold," said Gagnard. They immediately picked out a color sample and repainted the room pale yellow and lavender. The Hall Council also bought two rolling leather chairs, and they plan to buy two more soon.

They are currently in the process of talking to Student Life about getting bigger lights at the back entrance of Hardin and a roof cover for the back door. Many Hardin residents have complimented the Hall Council's efforts at improving their lifestyles on campus.

On top of the new study room, Hardin Hall Council also started a plastic bottle recycling program last October.

"The residents of Hardin have responded very well," said Gagnard. They have three plastic bins in the dorm for collecting plastic drinking bottles and milk jugs. After getting the idea from some soccer players, Hardin residents found out where to recycle and came to understand just how easy it was. The residents and their guests have participated eagerly and shown respect by using the plastic bins properly.

"We even have some residents who have friends that drop off bags of plastic bottles at Hardin's front door. It always makes me laugh and smile when I come to Hardin to find the swing on the front porch covered in plastic bags full of bottles!" said Gagnard. She and the rest of the Hall Council are very pleased that they can help the environment, even in a small way, because every plastic bottle counts!

For more information about plastic recycling and other recycling please go to http://www.shreveportgreen.org/recycling/. The Shreveport Recycling Center is less than four miles away from Centenary, so if you want to start a recycling program with your organization, hall council, or just on your own, check it out.

59% of students took the satisfaction survey

as of Wednesday, March 12, according to Dr. Meg Webber, member of the Enrollment Management Committee
The survey is open until MIDNIGHT TONIGHT, Friday, March 14
All students should have email links sent by the EMC to participate in the survey.
Students who take the survey are eligible for one of four $100 prizes and one $500 prize!

Woodrow Wilson fellow will lecture on the right to die

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

Editor's note: Woodrow Wilson fellow and bioethicist Chris Hackler will be at Centenary March 25-28. Our college is one of the longest-running participants in the Woodrow Wilson fellow program, "an effort which brings distinguished and accomplished people to campus to show how the liberal arts applies to the real world," according to Dr. Chris Ciocchetti, Associate Professor of Philosophy and organizer of Hackler's trip. Hackler will visit several classes, meet with hospice workers, and give a public talk on the right to die (and issue again throw into the spotlight since Jack Kevorkian announced he's running for Congress). Conglomerate staff writer Nadine Kaskas asked Hackler a few questions over email to inform Centenary about his upcoming visit, which takes place immediately after break.

Conglomerate: What classes will you be visiting and what topics do you plan to cover?

Hackler: I am looking forward to meeting with several different classes over the four days of my visit, including Ethics, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Society and Technology, Human Growth and Development, and Genetics. My work in the medical center touches all of these areas, and I look forward to sharing some of my experiences with the students.

I will talk with the ethics class about medical ethics in general and my role in the medical center, and maybe tell them about a few difficult cases I've dealt with.

I think the A&P class might be interested in stem cells and how we define life, and about organ transplantation and how we define death.

Since there are so many fascinating medical technologies that raise social issues, there should be a wealth of material to discuss with the Society and Technology class. There is life-sustaining technology, genetic engineering, and assisted reproduction using in vitro fertilization, which has challenged and extended our traditional view of family relationships.

In the Growth and Development class, we can think about the end of life as an essential part of our life story, and how we can try to shape the ending by such things as living wills and other advance medical directives.

Genetics is one of the exciting frontiers of medicine, as the Human Genome Initiative has presented us with an incredible array of knowledge about the human body and about human nature that could transform our society in far-reaching ways.

You can probably guess from this that I am enthusiastic about my visit to Centenary!

Congo: At what events will you be lecturing? What is your position on end-of-life decisions?

Hackler: In addition to the class visits, my schedule includes a public lecture Wednesday evening (March 26) on "Futility or Hope? Science and Politics at the End of Life." I will review our societal consensus on withdrawing life-sustaining treatment from comatose patients. I will then look at two recent cases that have challenged that consensus: Terri Schiavo in Florida, and Terry Wallis in Arkansas, who recently awoke 19 years after a terrible automobile accident. I will argue that, although they look alike, the cases are quite different and should be treated differently. My view is that continued treatment of Terri Schiavo was futile and could be discontinued because her higher brain was completely destroyed from lack of oxygen, whereas we now are beginning to understand why there is potential for some recovery from traumatic injuries like that of Terry Wallis.

Congo: What do you hope to accomplish with your visit to Centenary?

Hackler: One of the purposes of the Woodrow Wilson visits is to show how the courses that students take in liberal arts colleges, while inherently interesting and broadening, also connect to the real world and help us understand and solve big problems. I know from my own experience that it is true, and I hope to share my experience with the Centenary community.

Chris Hackler will be on campus from March 25-28.

Student Government Association

Notes from the SGA meeting on March 11, 2008 in the Centenary Room of the caf:

Resolutions passed:

Resolution 0708_34: To allocate $6,000.00 in order to pay the bill for the USA Today Readership Program. Resolution was amended to $1,200.00 and passed.

Resolutions tabled for next week:

Resolution 0708_37: To allocate $49.95 to the Centenary College Democrats to reimburse members for the cost of the supplies used to create an Iraq War exhibit.

Resolution 0708_38: To allocate $250.00 to Side-By-Side and Amnesty International to help fund Homeless Awareness Week, April 7 - 11, 2008.

Extra Business:

VPIA Jarnigan presented recommendations for amending the SGA by-laws; members discussed; vote to be taken next meeting.

Next meeting: March 25, 2008, at 8:00 p.m. in the Centenary Room of the caf. All students, faculty, staff are welcome to attend!

RHA selling tickets for coveted room lottery number "0"

Courtney Delaney
Layout Editor

It's that time of year again. As the spring semester comes to a close, returning students face the trials of the room lottery. This is a time when students are scrambling to find roommates and crossing their fingers as they wait for the lottery numbers to be posted. For those whose lottery number is bound to be low, don't lose hope. This year you have an opportunity to get first pick of your choice. The Residence Hall Association will be raffling off tickets for lottery number "0."

Everyone who buys a raffle ticket will have a chance to win the coveted "0" spot that will allow the winner to have first pick. Mind you, all room and housing rules apply. For example, no freshman or sophomores can live in Rotary, regardless of room lottery number. Also, the winner of the spot must have a roommate; it cannot be used to obtain a single room. Due to this the lottery number "0" will not disturb the system in place and everyone else will pick rooms in order of their lottery numbers.

RHA members will be selling tickets during lunchtime (11:00-1:00 p.m.) in the cafeteria during Diversity Week, from March 25 to April 3. Each ticket costs $1 per ticket and $5 for 8 tickets. The drawing will take place on April 4. RHA will be using the money in order to attend the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH) conference this May at Oklahoma State University.

President of RHA, Maggie Mahoney, said, "We wanted to offer the opportunity of the lowest lottery number to anyone who wants to live on campus despite their hours." According to Mahoney, the raffle is mostly targeted at helping underclassmen males, who have limited options of housing on campus.

What else is RHA working on? Look forward to a forum dedicated to the issue of co-ed visitation hours sometime next month. If anyone has any other ideas on how RHA can improve living in the residence halls, please email RHA@centenary.edu

The room lottery will take place on Friday, April 11 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Whited Room of Bynum Commons. All housing forms, including off-campus housing requests, must be turned in by Monday, March 31 at 4:00 p.m.

Centenary students travel south for spring break on a humanitarian aid trip to Mexico

Sara Carpenter
Staff Writer

During Easter Break, students and staff will be going on a mission trip to Mexico. Thirteen students and four Centenary staff members will be participating in the trip to Reynosa and Matamoras, Mexico, from March 14 to 19.

The mission trip was coordinated through the Louisiana Volunteers in Mission as well as the Mexico Volunteers in Mission office. The group will be helping Dr. Elias establish medical records for children in the orphanage in Matamoras. In Reynosa, the group will do construction work with the Methodist Church of Mexico.

The group will be housed by the church and will also attend a worship service there in addition to visiting the local market and touring the area.

Junior Nicole Clifton attended training through the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission in preparation for the trip, which she helped plan. Clifton said, "The training encouraged us to work alongside a community and complete the task how the community members think the task should be completed. When the missionaries leave, the community sees the work of the Church, shelter, orphanage, or organization we helped...not the work of the Americans." Clifton, along with Mission Coordinator Laura Canfield, is leading the trip.

Scholarships were provided for each student. The funds were donated by the Centenary Muses and SGA, and private donations were also made.

The Christian Leadership Center has coordinated mission trips every semester since the spring of 2006. Since then, it has become an additional way for students to get their Service Learning credit. Senior James King said, "I needed to fulfill Service Learning and thought that this would be a new experience." When asked about previous mission experiences with the school, junior Kari Patterson said, "It was especially motivating to be a part of the St. Mark's trip, because we could immediately see the results of our work, both for the kids who were performing and the community members who came to see them. It was an awesome experience, both the work and the performance." On that particular trip, Centenary students worked at St. Mark's Community Center in New Orleans.

For more information about the trip, contact Laura Canfield at lcanfiel@centenary.edu or 318-869-5280.

REAL MEN
WEAR PINK

President Schwab (in a bright pink shirt) poses along with ZTA ladies and Skeeter, the new Centenary mascot, to help publicize the 4th annual Think Pink golf tournament. See the photo in color at www.thecccconglomerate.com! Photo courtesy of Rebekah Gagnard.

4th annual Think Pink golf tournament hosted by Zeta Tau Alpha for breast cancer research

(information courtesy of Rebekah Gagnard)

On April 5, 2008, the Beta Iota Chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha at Centenary College of Louisiana will host their 4th Annual Think Pink Golf Tournament!

All proceeds from the Golf Tournament will benefit breast cancer research, awareness, and education. ZTA is seeking out all the golfers in the community who would like to support a great cause, play golf, and have fun!

To prepare for this upcoming event, ZTA is encouraging everyone to "Think Pink!" Centenary College President Dr. Schwab & the new Centenary mascot, Skeeter, posed March 6 with some of the ladies of ZTA. (Pictured on the left.)

For more information please refer to the Golfer/ Donor Brochure, which can be found online at http://www.centenary.edu/life/zta/pages/thinkpink.html.

Any remaining questions? Feel free to email ZTA Golf Tournament Chair Jessica Miller at jmiller@centenary.edu.

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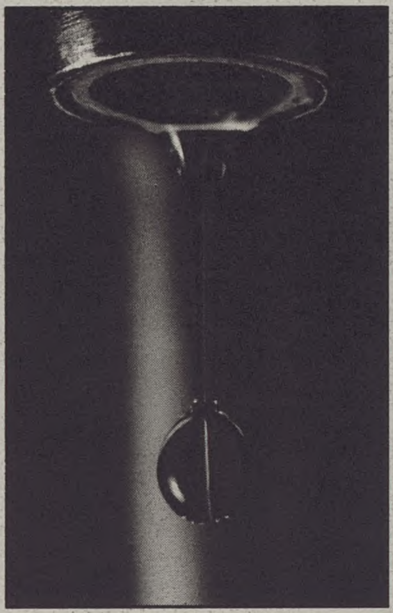
Drinking water of 41 million Americans contamined with drugs, AP study reports



Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

A new health concern has arisen with the results of an Associated Press investigation, which found that the drinking water of at least 41 million Americans is contaminated with minute amounts of several kinds of pharmaceuticals. The drugs range from sex hormones to blood pressure medicine and the active ingredient in a popular sedative.

The report said that the drugs enter water supplies when they are excreted as waste. The waste is then treated and flushed into major rivers, lakes, or reservoirs. From there, some of it enters water treatment plants, but most treatment processes do not remove traces of pharmaceuticals.

It is a worrisome issue to many officials, and the Assistant Administrator for Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Benjamin H. Grumbles, said, "We recognize it is a growing concern and we're taking it very seriously." The agency's seriousness seems in question, though, considering government regulations for water safety don't even include trace pharmaceuticals.

"Studies have shown that even minute traces of pharmaceuticals can kill animals living in lakes and rivers, and that alone is something that I think we should be concerned about," said Centenary professor Jeff Agnew. Agnew is currently teaching a class on Environmental Geology. "Similar traces of pharmaceuticals in our drinking water may not be harmful to our health currently, but the effects of long-term exposure to so many different types of pharmaceuticals are unknown," he said.

This seems to be echoed in several studies. For example, male fish are being feminized, a trend that scientists think may be linked to estrogen—one of the chemicals the AP study found in some water supplies.

For years, the government has regulated pesticides, lead and other such harmful substances, yet experts say that drugs are unique in the sense that they were made to act on the human body.

Zoologist John Sumpter told the AP that "these are chemicals that are designed to have very specific effects at very low concentrations. That's what pharmaceuticals do. So when they get out to the environment, it should not be a shock to people that they have effects."

It's also noted that even though the drugs are certified for use in humans, such a mix of substances over the course of lifetime could have effects that researchers can't even yet predict. More tests will certainly have to be done, but the EPA said that last year it developed three new methods to detect pharmaceuticals in water supplies.

Currently, there is no system specifically designed to treat sewage for pharmaceuticals. The AP report noted, however, that there is a way to remove nearly all traces of drugs from water supplies, called reverse osmosis. Yet they also pointed out that it "is very expensive for large-scale use and leaves several gallons of polluted water for every one that is made drinkable."

Image credit: Water and Earth Science Association, Ltd. (www.wesa.ca)

U.S. airport censors websites

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

Free wireless internet access in cafés, airports, and other establishments—even even entire cities—has been expanding over the past couple years. The Denver International Airport, however, has decided in a landmark policy decision that it will censor certain websites on its free WI-FI network.

Among the censored domains are fashion magazine Vanity Fair, popular geek-tech website boingboing.net, and gossip column perezhilton.com, according to an article written by Denver Post columnist Michael Booth. Photos from the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue are also banned.

Critics note that anyone could go to the news stand and pick up a copy of Vanity Fair or the Sports Illustrated swimsuit edition. Yet airport spokesman Chuck Cannon told the Associated Press that he "would rather weather infrequent complaints about access than handle angry parents whose children might see pornography."

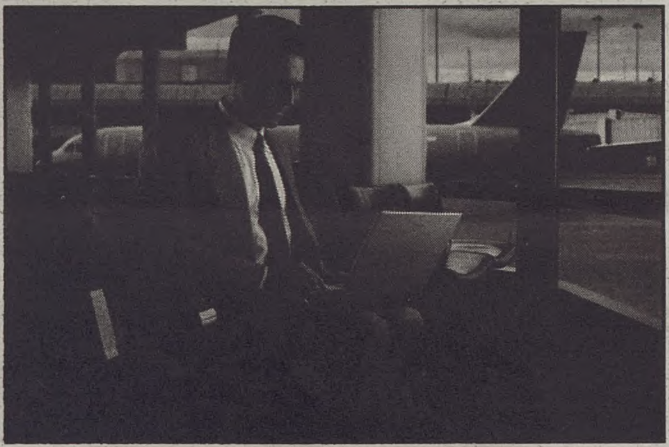
Still, his businesslike approach hasn't quelled opponents. Boingboing.net's editor, Xeni Jardin, said that she is tired of having her website blocked just because it "occasionally posts respected artworks that might include nudity."

Jardin was quoted as saying, "It seems particularly unfortunate that something as symbolic as the city's airport, a gateway to culture, commerce and the flow of ideas, would be blocked in such a fundamental way. The intent is understandable, but the outcome is bad for Denver."

Another critic, David Byrne (founder of the iconic rock band Talking Heads), was also upset. He was blocked from visiting boingboing.net while connecting to Aspen. "Give people some credit," he said, "And the more credit you give them, the more they respond. It's just trusting people's discretion."

Byrne noted for the record that he was glad the airport was offering free wireless access, but his blogging has inspired even more controversy among Internet users. The ISP Planet blog, in response to the musician's words, wrote that, "Software designed for the prudery and rigidity of Sudan is determining user experiences in the United States."

The statement is a reference to critics' claims that the filtering software used by the airport is the same employed by the regimes in Sudan and Kuwait to repress free speech. The airport still retorts that they're using "prudent judgment in a public, family-friendly atmosphere."



As of yet, no changes look to be on the way. Cannon said that the airport has received only two formal complaints and that only around one percent of hits per day have been blocked. This doesn't appear to be enough to swing the opinion of the establishment's management.

Critics like Jardin are still not happy, though. "This manner of policing the Internet has been proven time and time again to be easily circumventable, with any number of means," she said. "So what it does is just block traffic to legitimate sites. Like the locks on your suitcase only keep the nice guys out."

Photo credit: Indiana Digital.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

New President of Cyprus raises hopes about unification

Kari Patterson
Staff Writer

A new President in Cyprus has given fresh hope to the possibility of a united Cyprus. Demetris Christofias, the newly elected President of Cyprus, has extended an offer to Turkish Cypriot President Mehmet Ali Talat to reopen negotiations between the two countries. The negotiations, which will be monitored by United Nations representatives, are scheduled for March 21 and will take place in a UN compound in the Cypriot capital, Nicosia. The leaders will be discussing, among other things, the possibility of opening more crossing points through the buffer zone between the two sides of the country, particularly at Ledra Street, a main thoroughfare in Nicosia.

Ousting the hard-line government led by Tassos Papadopoulos, Christofias, a member of a left-wing Marxist-Socialist party, campaigned heavily on the issue of Cyprus' unification. Papdopoulos' government had stalled in peace talks with Turkish Cyprus in 2004, fearing that any kind of power-sharing agreement with the Turkish Cypriots would harm Greek autonomy on the island. Soon after, a referendum outlining a UN-proposed unification plan was rejected by Greek Cypriot voters, which effectively brought all negotiations between the two sides to a halt. The same referendum was overwhelmingly approved by Turkish Cypriots. The same year, Cyprus was admitted to the European Union.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974, when the Turkish army invaded, allegedly to liberate and protect Turkish Cypriots in the wake of a pro-Greek coup on the island. Turkey remains the only country to formally recognize the Turkish Republic of Cyprus, which continues to be completely partitioned from the southern part of the island, Greek Cyprus.

While Christofias' actions have given a new infusion of optimism to the 34-year pursuit of Cypriot unification, experts and analysts warn that the newest round of negotiations should not be considered a panacea for Cyprus' problems. But after four years of nothing, any revival in official dialogue between the two halves of the divided country certainly can't hurt.

Photo: Greek Cypriots rally; AP.

Poisoned letter sent to South Africa's chief prosecutor

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

South Africa's chief prosecutor, Mokotedi Mpshe, received a haunting surprise on Monday when his staff opened a poisoned letter. According to the BBC, Mpshe did not touch the letter himself, but five of his aides are currently being treated for rashes developed from touching the letter. His office has also been sealed off.

A spokesman for the country's National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Tlali Tlali, has said that he cannot identify the type of poison used, but the BBC did speak with forensic expert David Klatzow, who said that it is probably "a kind of organophosphate, which are commonly used as insecticides in the agricultural sector." Tlali also did not indicate who he thought could have been behind the letter.

The police have launched an investigation, but would not comment on the incident. No arrests have yet been made.

Mpshe is the head of the NPA, which has been pursuing corruption cases within the South African government, including against ruling party leader Jacob Zuma. While Zuma has said the charges are part of a conspiracy against him, Mpshe has been relentless in his pursuit of corruption in the government—a more serious problem in Africa than many regions of the world.

Zuma is currently the favorite to become the South African president in the nation's 2009 elections, but says that he needs to beat the "politically motivated" corruption charges. It is not known if he will be linked to this incident.

Photo: Chief prosecutor Mpshe; BBC.

China steps up military as Taiwanese elections draw near

Charles Eddy
Staff Writer

It's just over a week until Taiwanese elections take place, and now its arch-rival China has made a monumental decision. Chinese President Hu Jintao called on his military to step up its capability to "win high-tech regional wars."

This comes as U.S. official Admiral Timothy Keating, commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, made clear his qualms with China's military expansion. "I remain concerned about Chinese double-digit growth in annual defense spending and investment in systems which threaten Taiwan and our own capabilities," he said, noting that stability was vital in the Taiwan Strait.

Hu, speaking at an annual meeting of Parliament, said this of his military: "We must aim at improving the capability to win high-tech regional wars and keep enhancing the ability of the military to respond to security threats and accomplish a diverse array of military tasks."

The communist government did not mention Taiwan in its proclamation, but it has never been shy about the use of force in the domination of its neighbor to the southeast. China has also expressed discontent at the pro-independence stance of current Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian, who will be voted out of office in the March 22 elections.

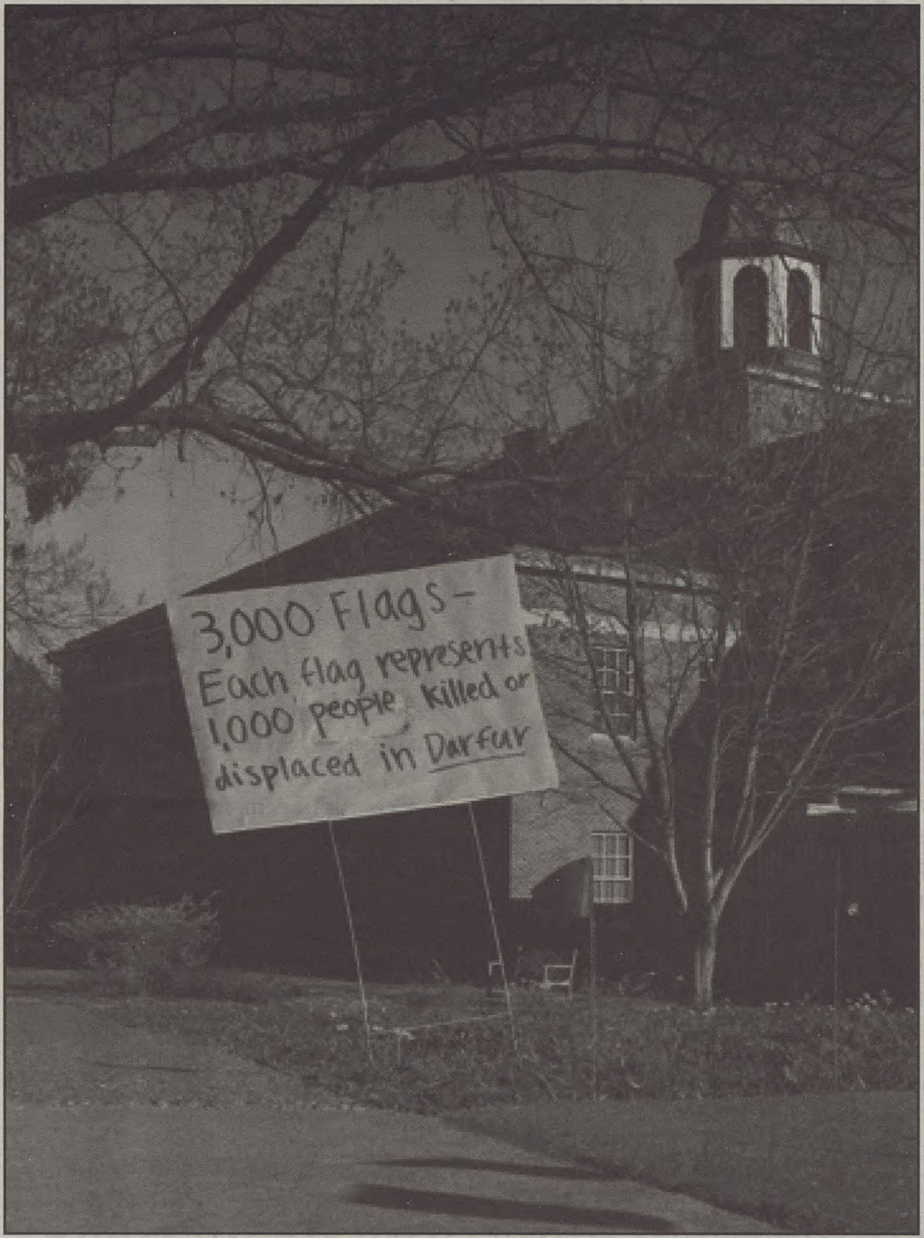
The United States seems intent on diffusing tensions between the two nations, especially in light of the 2004 presidential elections in Taiwan, in which China threatened war against the country in order to prevent Chen Shui-bian from changing the constitution to invoke full independence. In 1996, China also launched missiles at its neighbor in an attempt to scare citizens away from a candidate that would vie for independence, Lee Teng-hui.

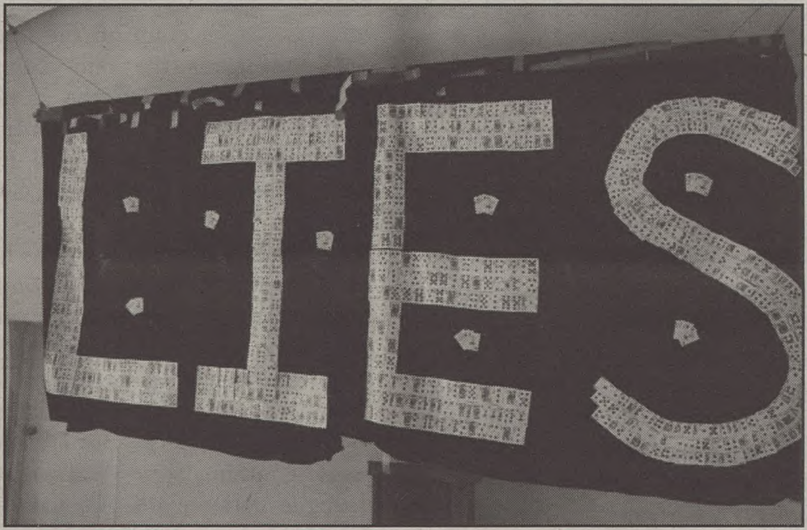
While U.S. officials have always said that they do not support Taiwanese independence, they remain strong allies with the separatist government. China and Taiwan have been ruled separately since 1949, but the former still considers Taiwan a territory "awaiting unification."

There is little doubt that the presidential decree is meant as a scare tactic to urge the Taiwanese people to vote along Chinese lines, but it may have little to no effect. The Taiwanese elections of 1996—despite missile attacks—saw the election of candidate Lee Teng-hui.

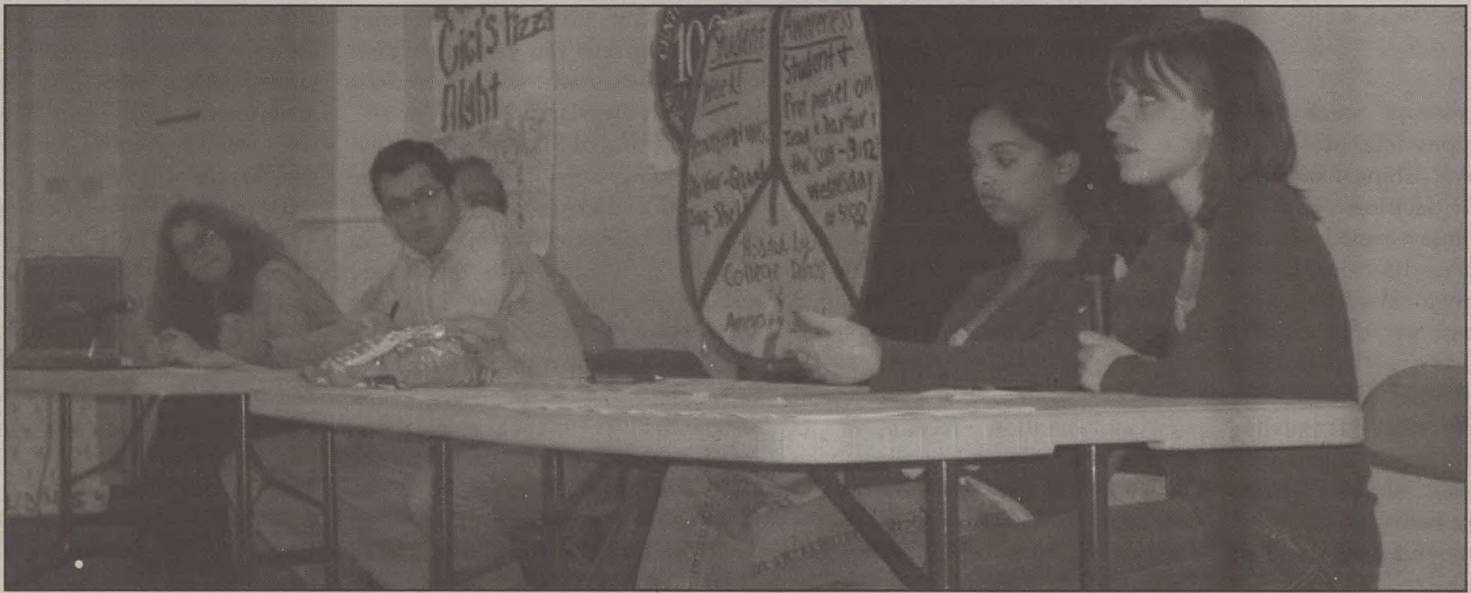
Student Awareness Week: Focus on Darfur and Iraq

visit www.thecccconglomerate.com for color photos! see article on pages 1 and 3 for more information


3,000 Flags -
Each flag represents 1,000 people killed or displaced in Darfur



Left: A sign beside the 3,000 flags in the quad explains the meaning behind each one.
Top right: A perspective shot of the flags, which line the walkways, cover most of the quad, and are arranged in the shape of a peace sign and the word 'Darfur.'
Right middle: 935 playing cards in the shell symbolize 935 lies told about the Iraq War. Photos by Emily DeLatin.
Below: (right to left) Students Megan Ottesen and Versha Sharma join professors Dr. Ciocchetti, Dr. Grunes, and Dr. VanHoosier-Carey in a panel on Darfur and Iraq. Photo by Jon Hedley.


Cici's Pizza Night
Student Awareness Week!
Student + Prof panel on Iraq + Darfur

A&E

CD Review: New Erykah Badu album will please fans

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Erykah Badu is known for her eclectic style that spans generations and is popular whenever played. Her new CD does not diverge from her typical style and that makes it an album for those who are fans of Erykah Badu.

"New Amerykah Part I: 4th World War" does not have one simple formula that the album sticks to, but it is not all over the place. It contains a mixture of music and lyrics that give the listener a number of lessons to learn.

"New Amerykah..." does not rely on the released single "Honey" to make it a great album. "Honey" is the very last song on the album. "New Amerykah..." begins with things people find in America in "Amerykah's Promise" and goes on to "The Healer," which is an ode to hip hop, even having phrases like "Hip hop is bigger than religion" and "Hip hop is bigger than the government."

Erykah Badu is known for her role in hip hop. She gets very personal in her song "Me." She talks about growing up in the music industry, her love life, children, and the changes in her appearance.

"New Amerykah..." is very creative. There are songs like "That Hump" that sound one way for half of the song, then the beat fades out and a different beat comes in with the song continuing. It sounds like she couldn't decide on the beat so she chose them both. This is not done excessively on the album and each time it is good.

The music is fantastic. Sometimes it sounds like theme music from blacksploitation films like "Foxy Brown" and "Cleopatra Jones." The lyrics are also great. Erykah Badu is on the level with artists like Lauryn Hill, whose music is not just to entertain but to deliver a message as well. Her message is clear in every song.

I recommend "New Amerykah Part I: 4th World War" to those who enjoy Erykah Badu. If you are not a fan, you will not like this CD, but if you are a fan of Ms. Badu and have been waiting on a new album, you will be very happy with your purchase.

Final installment of Potter films to be split into two parts

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Harry Potter fans who were upset at the end of the series last summer now have a prolonged movie sequence to look forward to. The Los Angeles Times reported Wednesday that the film version of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" will be split into two movies.

The seventh book in the series is not the longest (though it is no small feat, at 759 pages), but the producers, screenwriters, and fans alike all feel that there are no extraneous subplots that could potentially be cut, unlike in other books. Case in point: "Order of the Phoenix," the biggest Potter tome at 896 pages, was the shortest movie.

"You cannot remove elements of ['Deathly Hallows']," said producer David Heyman to the LA Times. "You can remove scenes of Ron playing quidditch from the fifth book, and [other] subplots...but with the seventh, that can't be done."

"Deathly Hallows" chronicles the seventh and final year of Harry, Ron, and Hermione's Hogwarts education, though those who have read the book know the bulk of it actually takes place away from the school of magic.

Actor Daniel Radcliffe, who plays Harry Potter, was also quoted by the LA Times. "I think it's the only way you can do it without cutting out a huge portion of the book," he said, "but the seventh book doesn't really have any subplots. It's one driving, pounding story from the word go."

Indeed, most fans seem to agree, and Harry Potter has no shortage of supporters on the Centenary campus. "It is a total relief to know the franchise isn't dying with the last book and will now be extended with an extra installment in the final movie," said senior and Ron Weasley fanatic Amanda Russell. "For Potter fans everywhere, this solidifies the obsession and will also make for a better final movie."

The tentative plans are to release the first part in November 2010 and the second in May 2011. "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," which is currently filming, is slated for release this November 21.

Heyman even approached Potter mastermind J. K. Rowling for her take on splitting the book into two movies, and to his relief, she agreed with the logic behind it.

Not all Potter maniacs are rejoicing, however, especially with the proposed six-month wait between the two movies.

"Why not just release one five-hour movie with an intermission?" asked junior Kari Patterson. "It's Harry Potter, so it's definitely an 'if you build it, they will come' mentality."

The question most fans are now asking is at what point in the book will the movies break in half, but Heyman doesn't want a respite from suspense yet. He only said that the question of "do you break it with a moment of suspense or one of resolution" is an "interesting challenge."

CD Review: “Back of My Lac” sounds incomplete and uninspired

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

J. Holiday’s “Back of My Lac’” does not deliver much besides his released singles “Bed” and “Suffocate.” If you enjoyed those two songs, then you will be content with the album simply because those two songs are on it, but if you want to hear growth or an artist who can change his style and be successful, then I advise you to pass.

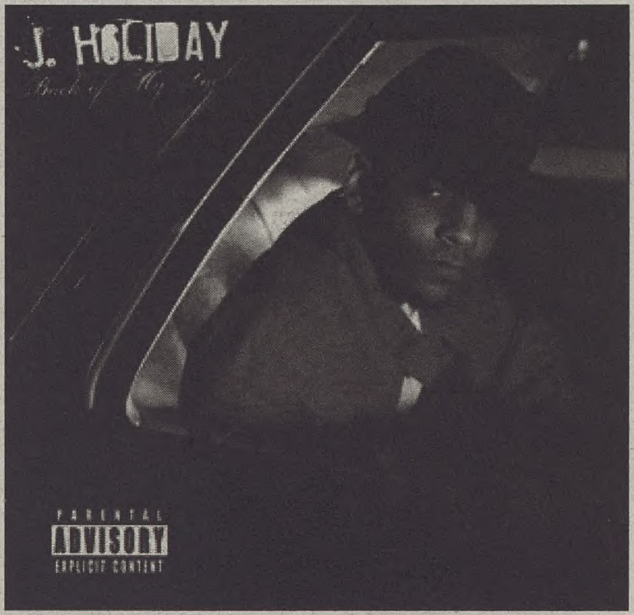
“Back of My Lac’” is not a bad album, but it sounds like a single or a demo rather than a complete album that an artist released with hopes of becoming a successful recording artist.

“Bed” is a great song. It is catchy and keeps the listener interested. “Suffocate” is the same way. It is sweet, not as good as “Bed,” but a nice second single. These two songs entice the listener to get the album, with hopes that the album is good and shows something other than the range on these two songs. With “Back of My Lac,” the hopes are not fulfilled.

The songs on “Back of My Lac’” make you want to skip to “Bed” or “Suffocate.” They sound cheesy or like other songs that have been released by other artists. His song “Pimp in Me” is reminiscent of Lloyd’s “Player’s Prayer.”

J. Holiday should have done more with “Back of My Lac’” than he did. He should have written or selected better songs. With a smash hit like “Bed,” an artist should deliver, but J. Holiday doesn’t. This is disappointing.

Artists like Ne-Yo and The Dream are competition for J. Holiday and he should have stepped his game up or waited until his album was good before releasing it. I recommend that you buy “Back of My Lac’” if it is severely on sale and you just feel the need to possess “Bed” and/or “Suffocate.”



Movie review: “10,000 B.C.” is mediocre and dumb

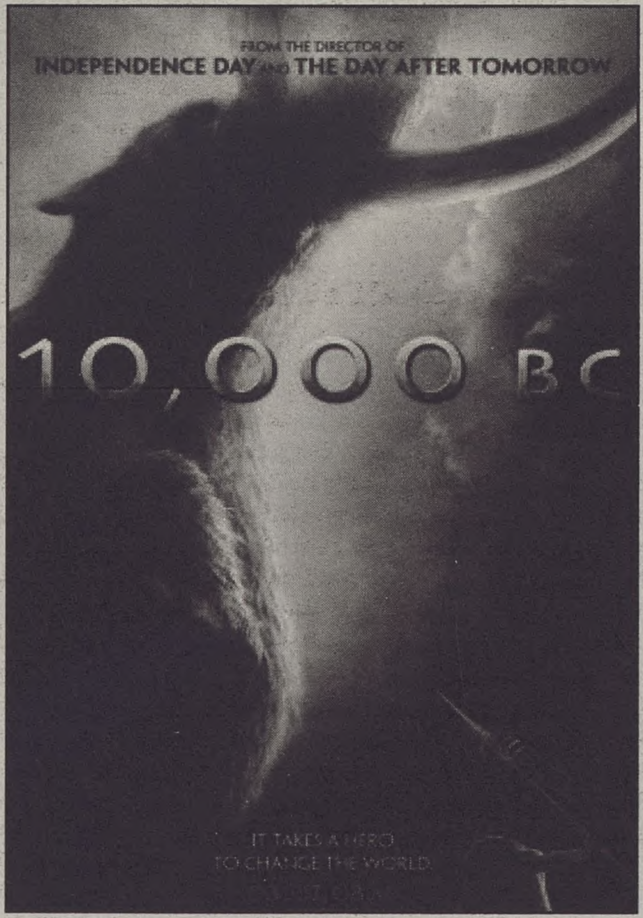
Todd Johnson
A&E Editor

Have you ever watched a movie that you wanted to like, but couldn’t? It had the makings of something you could enjoy, but it did not fulfill those promises of enjoyment. Have you ever watched a movie so dumb that you felt the brain cells die in your head as you watched it? This is how I felt with “10,000 B.C.”

The movie is about D’Leh (Steven Strait), a young hunter from a tribe of mammoth hunters. He is in love with Evolet (Camilla Belle), who is prophesied to be with a person destined to be a great hero and savior to their people. After an attack on their village, Evolet is captured and hauled off to a great city in a place that looks eerily like Giza, Egypt. Naturally, D’Leh follows Evolet and becomes the legendary hero.

Of course, there are also glaring historical errors. I did not realize that the pyramids of Giza were built using mammoths. In fact, I did not even know that mammoths lived in Egypt. Many of the characters speak English, are white, and have perfect teeth. Also, the movie has the weirdest sense of geography I have ever seen as the people cross snow covered mountains in one scene only to be in a hot swamp in the next (literally). Then they are crossing hundreds of miles of desert in just a few days. Oh, yeah, then they find the pyramids being built by mammoths. The movie starts off dumb, but slowly moves from just being dumb to full-out retarded.

Now, I love a big, dumb action movie as much as anyone. However, for a dumb action movie to be worth the time, it had better be entertaining. I have to enjoy watching the endless cacophony of death and mayhem; otherwise I will get bored because the story will not interest me in the end.



The movie is dumb. This is one of the main problems with “10,000 B.C.” It is very dumb and the story is not very interesting as I have seen it all before in better movies. The story is so clichéd and riddled with plot holes that you wonder why they even bothered trying to use a story in the first place. I did not find myself interested in the characters (though Camilla Belle is very hot) or anything that happened to them. It seems like they added some of the action scenes just to try and keep audience interest in the movie.

Some of the action scenes are fun and they get the blood pumping. The special effects are pretty good, except for some awful green screen work early in the movie. The music is lively. The movie is beautiful to look at, but that is ultimately the problem with this movie. It is very superficial and shallow.

Ultimately, this is the worst kind of movie: the average kind. It is not bad enough to where you can hate it long after it is done (like “Meet the Spartans” or any movie starring Jessica Simpson), but it is so stupid and boring that you cannot enjoy the story or take it seriously. After a few weeks, this movie will be forgotten because it is neither bad nor good, just very, very average.

Movie review: "The Other Boleyn Girl" offers an entertaining soap opera with historical twists

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

History nerds and soap opera lovers might not traditionally have the same taste in arts and entertainment, but "The Other Boleyn Girl" provides enough melodrama in 16th-century Tudor England to satisfy the most devoted of both genres.

Adapted from the best-selling novel of the same name by Philippa Gregory, the movie follows the lives of Anne Boleyn (Natalie Portman), her lesser-known sister Mary Boleyn (Scarlett Johansson), and their exploits with King Henry VIII (Eric Bana). Jim Sturgess and Kristin Scott Thomas are the other acting talents of the film, respectively playing brother George Boleyn and mother Elizabeth Boleyn.

The movie is worth seeing alone for its cinematography – from the sweeping shots of Hampton Court Palace (which the real-life Henry VIII remodeled to add palatial architecture) to the Tower of London (where the real-life Anne Boleyn was imprisoned and later beheaded). Coming in at a close second for being aesthetically pleasing are the stunning and elegant costumes of the time, worn by all the lead actors to devastatingly gorgeous effect.

Johansson as Mary exudes a convincingly shy and innocent demeanor, set off by her simple but elegant clothes; Portman as Anne plays up the acumen and cunning of her character in vibrant, unforgettable greens and blues; and Bana as Henry manages to display some of the king's portliness (known from his portraits) with thick furs and coats. When the clothes come off, however, there's no reconciling Bana with what history shows us Henry looks like, but at least for those moments, viewers won't care.

That said, the plot is intriguing enough to make people go read about Tudor history on the web for hours on end after the movie – and that's giving credit to the real facts themselves, as they provide the framework within which these actors exude passion, despair, lust, love, anger and ambition to the best of their abilities. I won't get into the messy details of historical accuracy within the movie here (see the end of the article for some points of dispute), but the bare facts are this: Anne Boleyn and Mary Boleyn were both mistresses of King Henry VIII while he was married to Catherine of Aragon, George Boleyn was implicated in scandal once Anne managed to become Queen, and Mary was the only one who didn't meet a messy end. That alone is enough fodder for a period drama, but Gregory adds so much more in her book, and director Justin Chadwick does the same in the film.

The only problem with the film is that it could be perceived as too overemotional and theatrical by some moviegoers. Some will find Anne's downward spiral into desperation and near madness off-putting, others will find it absorbing enough to suffer the sometimes overdone histrionics. Sturgess deserves credit for engaging audience emotions in his character (and his unfair, unfortunate end) without over-the-top acting. Portman certainly deserves due for making the contradictory character of Anne in this movie so beguiling: one moment she's a heartless bitch and you can't believe how she treats her sister, the next she invokes sympathy and you fear for her sanity (and her head).

If not for any of that, then at least go for the scene where Queen Catherine of Aragon passes Anne and Mary on the way to her trial (prompted by Henry's desire to divorce her and marry Anne) and stops to acknowledge "the Boleyn whores." Pure soap opera history genius.

History vs. film (and book)

The film portrays Mary as the younger sister, though most historians suggest Mary was older. Mary is also seen as the more innocent of the two in the book/movie, when in real life, she slept with both Henry VIII and his rival King Francis I of France. The latter allegedly called her "a great whore, the most infamous of all."

The film portrays Anne as "a scheming trollop," as the Guardian newspaper put it, but many historians praise Anne as a feminist icon. She gave to many charities and saved people from the horrors of the Spanish Inquisition while Queen.

(SPOILER)

The movie suggests that Anne requested incestuous sex with brother George after having a miscarriage in order to save her marriage with the King (she was too scared to tell Henry of her misfortune), though real-life Anne swore in 1536 "upon damnation of her soul" that she was 100% innocent.

And a fun fact:

Anne Boleyn is depicted in portraits as wearing the same 'B' necklace that Natalie Portman sports throughout the movie.

What really grinds my gears: American Idol fanatics and telemarketers

Jaya Sharma
Contributing Writer

You know what really grinds my gears? Time. The more of it that passes, the harder it is for me to remember stuff that just happened. People take this to be a sign of senility or the result of my chronic drug abuse, but I assert that it's just because there's more stuff to remember. Eventually some things just have to go, kind of like penguins falling off a glacier. So don't judge me, young people, with your fancy memories and your predilection for accuracy; you're just jealous that you're not this pleasantly demented.

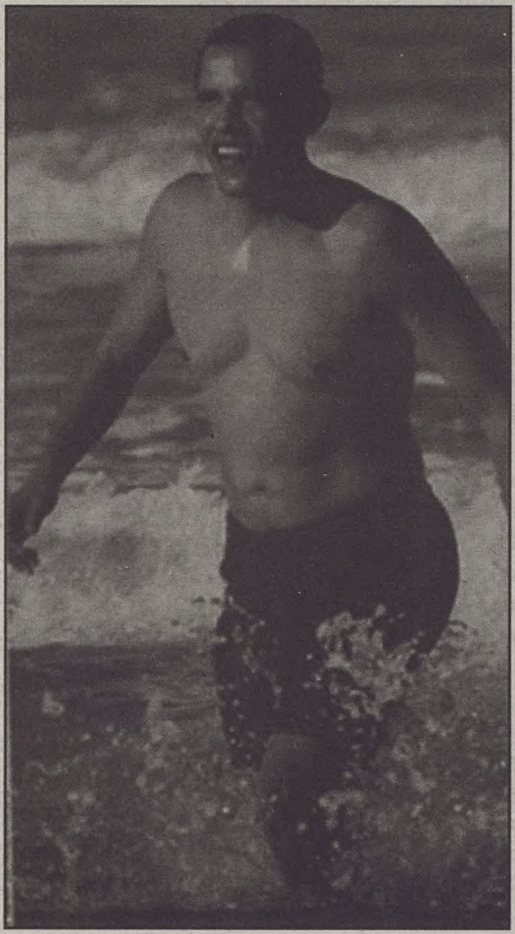
You know what's worse than that? America. Yeah I said it. What the frick, America. The average Joe that I meet on a daily basis seems to be intelligent enough, but when it comes to voting, this country takes a big fat stupid pill and regurgitates it in the form of bad decision-making. You might think I'm talking about voting in a President for two straight terms for whom English is apparently a second language, but no. I'm talking about American idol. For the second week in a row, a more talented singer has gone home instead of KRISTIE NO-TALENT COOK, who gets on stage week after week with her weird straddling poses (is she air-riding a horse?) and even worse song choices. For the love of Lennon, people, she turned "Eight Days a Week" into a country disaster – even Yoko cringed and said, "and I thought what I did was bad." And yet, astoundingly!, the more talented David Hernandez was sent home this week instead of Cacophonous Kick-me-in-the-face Cook. I might kill her tonight.

And in what can only be described as a ploy to ruin my life, telemarketers continue to call my house despite the fact that I have signed up for www.donotcall.gov approximately 17 times this week. What's worse, since most of these companies have outsourced to India, they always make me feel like I'm insulting my own heritage when I hang up in their eager faces. Has telemarketing ever worked in the history of humankind? It's the equivalent of the guys in the hooptie that pull up next to you at a stop light, motion for you to roll down your window, and ask "How you doin?" Really? Really, guys in paint-chipped Oldsmobile? Has any girl ever rolled down the window and responded, "I'm doing great – let's do the horizontal mambo!" I ain't no holla-back girl. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is what really grinds my gears.

Satire: Presidential candidate beauty contest

Amanda Russell
Staff Writer

Presidential appearance matters. The September 1960 Nixon-Kennedy presidential debates were the first ever to air on television. This was the first time voters saw their candidates in competition. The visual contrast was obvious. In August, Nixon injured his knee and spent two weeks in the hospital. He was twenty pounds underweight and looked sick at the time of the debate. He wore a poorly fitted shirt and refused make-up to improve his color and to lighten his 5 o'clock shadow. On the other hand, Kennedy had spent early September campaigning in California. He was tan and well-rested.



Those who heard the first debate on the radio pronounced Nixon the winner.

But the 70 million who watched television saw a sickly candidate. Studies of the audience indicated that among television viewers, Kennedy was perceived the winner of the first debate by a very large margin. As these debates demonstrate, presidential candidate appearance. How can a person be expected to run the nation if they can't manage their own appearance?

Today's presidential candidates are no exception. Republicans and Democrats alike preen, prod, and poke to look their best. With the make-up caked on, the haircuts spared no expense, and the wardrobes stocked from top designers, this new breed of candidate belongs on the runway instead of the steps of the White House. Despite efforts to look their best, presidential candidates are often unnaturally blessed with unfortunate looks. Age doesn't help matters, either. Let's take a closer look at some of the current presidential candidates.

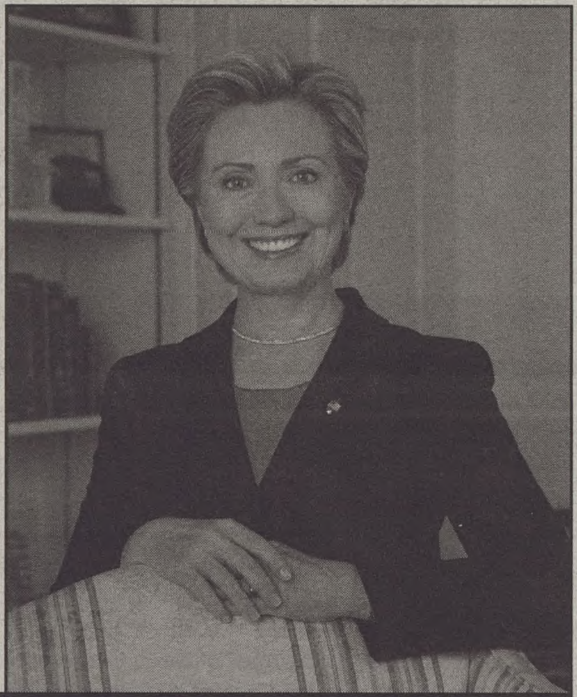
First we have the major Republican contenders. John McCain - he's experienced, he's been through this drill once before, and for goodness sake he was tortured in Vietnam. Let's give the man some credit. However, his image is tainted by one startling feature: his turkey neck. Now, I know McCain is 71 years old, but that neck, it is so disturbing. I've seen other 70-year-olds in button-up shirts and there was no neck requesting the Thanksgiving Day presidential pardon.

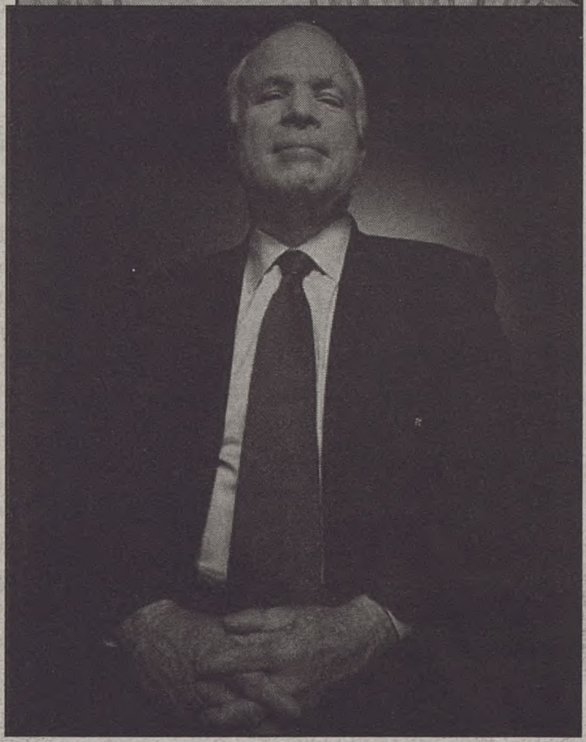
Next we have Mike Huckabee (this article was written before he dropped out of the race. But just go with it, people). In this particular picture, Huckabee doesn't look too bad, but examine it closer. First of all, this comb-over rivals Mr. Trumps's famous do. Second of all, Mom jeans were never in style, Governor Huckabee. The only near 52-year-old that is allowed to play the guitar is Bruce Willis, thank you very much. I think Chuck Norris would drop kick you for that one, sir.

The Democrats fair no better. First up is Senator Barack Obama. Obama is not awful looking, but his face is sort of long and alien-like. I mean, could his mouth/chin area get any stranger looking? I feel like he will literally take a bite out of crime. And for heaven's sake, put you shirt back on please. Save the Baywatch routine for the California general election, sir.

Then we have our female candidate, Senator Hillary Clinton. Clinton does not look too bad until you look closer. She appears to be some sort of botoxed stepford wife. And her "helmet hair" looks so hard that if you touched it, you might break a nail.

Americans expect the candidates to look their best. As long as the media serves up a perfectly-packaged presidential candidate in the ultimate beauty contest, America will remain strict judges. Work it;





MISS-TER CENTENARY

Congratulations
Rosie A. Rouser
A.K.A Michael Jarboe
Miss-ter Centenary 2008

photos taken by Emily Delatin and Mindy McKoin

SPORTS

Bracket-ology: March Madness by the numbers

Jay Martin
University of Arkansas Student
Sports Analyst
Contributing Writer

Heading into March Madness, there are a few numbers to keep in mind when filling out your brackets.

69. Many of the top teams in the nation share a major flaw. Some see it as an afterthought, but free throw shooting is a major asset in close games. Tennessee, Memphis, Duke, and Texas shoot under 69% from the free-throw line, making up some of the worst free throw shooting teams in the nation.

March Madness brings some of the most difficult competition, which means wins come by increasingly smaller margins. Free throws will decide nearly a quarter of the games during March Madness, so beware of poor shooting from the charity stripe.

Ten. In the past ten years, no team higher than a three seed has won the NCAA tournament. Only the 2006 Florida Gators, and the 2003 Syracuse Orange Men, have won Championships as a three seed in the last decade.

500. Teams that have success during March Madness must have decent road records, meaning .500 or better. While success at home is important, the NCAA tournament is a whole different monster on a neutral court. Teams that struggled on the road are often the same teams upset in the NCAA tournament.

54. In the history of the 64-team bracket, the nine seed has won 54% of the games against the eight seed. It may seem like the eight seed has the upper hand, but statistics say otherwise.

Five. Only one team in the nation has their entire starting five on all NBA draft boards, and that's the UCLA Bruins. Kevin Love, Russell Westbrook, and Darren Collison are all projected as first round draft picks.

Love is one of the best big men in the country, providing outstanding rebounding, old-school low post moves, and solid defense. His big body can match up with nearly any big in college basketball.

Russell Westbrook is one of the best defensive players in the nation because of his speed and quickness at the shooting guard position.

Alongside Westbrook, point guard Darren Collison creates arguably the best defensive backcourt in the nation. While he doesn't boast the largest body, he's extremely quick, especially on the fast break.

Projected second round pick Josh Shipp is an amazing scorer from anywhere on the court. At 6'5", his ball handling and passing are exceptional, making him the choice player with the ball in the final seconds.

Luc Richard Mbah a Moute creates multiple problems for opposing players with his 7'2" wingspan. Although he is slightly raw playing basketball, he's a very good rebounder and defender for the Bruins.

UCLA is the perfect storm of a basketball team. Hungry senior leadership, phenomenal youth, an elite head coach in Ben Howland and a national following make UCLA the team to beat come tournament time.

Many thanks to Jay Martin for his time writing this article. Good luck and happy bracketing!

Duke's Cameron Crazies: Merely an understatement

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

"Andrew, my friend, I see that you're sporting the big blue today."

Andrew Bowers walked casually with basketball in hand to the Fitness Center. Today was the game and he wanted people to know it.

"Dude, it's the North Caro..." – I had to stop him before he finished his statement.

"Bro, I know what game it is." I had established my knowledge of the situation at hand, and I could see a look of satisfaction come over his face.

"That's what I like to hear. Are you watching it?" He knew what I was going to say.

"Do chickens lay eggs, my boy? Of course I'm watching the game!"

The annual North Carolina vs. Duke game is a must-watch every year. At a usual constant, one–if not both–of the teams are ranked in the top ten of the nation, leaving no exception to this year where Duke was ranked #5 and the Tar Heels of North Carolina were ranked #1. But it's not always about the skill of two incredible teams. For me, and other die-hard fans of college basketball, it's also about watching the witty antics of none other than the Cameron Crazies.

Duke's Cameron Crazies have earned the illustrious reputation as the rowdiest, most organized college basketball fans in the land. According to Wikipedia's listing for them, the Cameron Crazies stand courtside in a 1,200-seat student section and begin cheering during warm-ups. Clad in solid blue, the fans paint themselves and wear hilarious costumes to show their love and support for Blue Devil basketball. Little known fact: the Cameron Crazies actually invented the term "air ball" when they started chanting the famous two words on a North Carolina missed shot in 1979.

This was just the beginning. In 1983, Maryland's Herman Veal was accused of sexually abusing another student. Though he was disciplined, Veal was not formally charged for any of his mistakes. The Crazies were on that subject like white on rice. With more than 1,000 panties in the student section, they jeered the player during pre-game warm-ups. One student held up a sign that read, "Hey, Herm, did you send her flowers?" This group doesn't play around.

Centenary's uniqueness on the stands is one of knowledge and wit as well. I'm proud to see the jeers and chants of our fans when the other team steps on our court. For example, I believe the Texas Tech game will go down in history as the finest hour of our fans. We broke the stiff, hardened core of NCAA legend Bobby Knight! People who were at that game will never forget that moment. Though we are small, like the 1,200 dedicated crazies, we pack a powerful punch to any unexpected team that enters the Dome. Here's to next basketball season for both the men's and women's teams! Go Gents! Fill out your brackets!

Athlete Journal: Ladies Softball enjoys winning streak, begins Summit League Play

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

Over the last week, we have continued to build on our success. Coming off of several needed wins, we hosted Grambling State last week in a double header. It was only the second time we have seen our home field since the start of the season.

We extended our winning streak to six wins after taking both games from Grambling. In game one of the double header, we were able to use hot hitting and dominating pitching to win 10-0 in five innings. Sophomore Allison Shepperd led the way at the plate with a 2-for-2 effort, scoring three runs, and driving in two. Senior Amy Wiedeman also belted a three-run shot over the left field fence that powered our second inning offensive explosion.

A new face was in the lineup for the first time in a month. Junior Emerald Doria was able to cleat up after suffering an injury and she proved to be a force that was missing. On her first hit of the season, she was able to jog around the bases after delivering a huge three-run shot over the outfield fence. It is nice to see her back in action.

Freshman Lauren Highsmith collected her first win of the season. She was able to remain composed and pitch a shutout for us, giving up just two hits, five walks, and striking out seven in just five innings.

In game two, we seemed to come out a little slower than the first game, not scoring until the fourth inning. In the end, though, we came away with a victory heading into our tournament at Oklahoma State.

Sophomore Stacy Whitmer pitched a gem, striking out ten batters and allowing only three hits in seven innings of work.

We ended last Wednesday night with two big wins heading into the weekend where we faced SFA, Texas Wesleyan, and Oklahoma State.

Our sleeper bus pulled out on Thursday heading to Stillwater, Oklahoma. After stopping for dinner on the way, we were in for a long trip—secluded in our tiny bunk beds listening to music, working on papers, and watching movies.

We arrived in Stillwater around 1 a.m. and went straight to bed for an early wake up in below-freezing temperatures. Games were scheduled at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. but were cancelled due to the frigid weather. Saturday morning came and we played the first two games at 11 a.m. against SFA and 1 p.m. against Texas Wesleyan.

Against SFA, we seemed to not have what it takes to beat a much-improved Lady Jack team. We came out a little complacent and not with the drive and power knowing we were riding a six-game win streak at that time. The score didn't represent who we are (8-0 loss). Our lack of clutch hitting accounted for eight base runners left on base. Emerald was able to continue her hot hitting with a 3-for-3 performance at the plate, but in the end, we couldn't find a way to score a run.

In the second game against Texas Wesleyan, we were able to come out and regain a sense of who we are at the plate and on the field. We connected on 11 hits as a team and fought to put up 11 runs.

On Sunday, the final day of the tournament, we faced hosts Oklahoma State for the third time this season. After two disturbing opening season losses to the Cowgirls, we felt a need for revenge. In the end, the scoreboard left the Cowgirls on top 5-1, but we played well in all aspects of the game.

We scored first in the second inning after sophomore Haley Bassett led off with a single and was moved to third on two consecutive grounds. Amy then delivered a sharp hit ball down right field line scoring Haley to put us ahead.

Oklahoma State was able to take a few key plays and delivered a few runs off of sophomore starter Ryan Thacker. She held the Cowgirls until about the fifth inning, when they had a few lucky breaks and scored two runs.

In the final game of the tournament, for a third place finish, we faced Texas Wesleyan once again. This time, we weren't shy to put a few runs on the board early as we plated seven runs in the first inning off of key hits, sacrifice groundouts and fly balls.

Stacy took control on the mound, not allowing a run until the fifth inning. Because of our long trip home to Shreveport and this game not beginning until 4 p.m., we were determined to find a way to end it early. With two outs in the bottom of the fifth inning, junior Leslie Postles singled and was driven in off a triple by senior Jennifer Martin. JMar scored off of a game ending single up the middle of the bat off freshman Caitlin Cavarra.

Summit League play is now here and we are ready to take control. IUPUI comes to our home field for the opening of the most anticipated part of our season. Play will begin today with a double-header beginning at 4 p.m. and a single game on Saturday at 12 p.m.

Athlete of the Week: Softball pitcher strives to win conference

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

Name: Ryan Nycole Thacker
Classification: Sophomore
Hometown: Alto, Texas
Sport: Softball
Position: Pitcher
Jersey #: 21
Major: Elementary Education

What's something no one knows about you? I've been engaged for almost 2 years...and I really like ice cream.

How does Centenary compare to your high school? Well, they are similar in that they are both small. My graduating class had about 45 students. There were 200 total in my entire high school. The only major difference is there were a lot more black people there, haha.

If you could play any other sport, what would it be? Hmm...I've played basketball, but I've always wanted to try tennis. I don't know why, it just looks really fun.

What do you look forward to most this season? Well, we've already played Baylor and OSU. We aren't playing LSU this year. I guess I look forward to winning conference! We have the team to do that and more. We just need to believe in ourselves and each other. I think we sometimes show signs of doubt, and if you don't believe in yourself, why should anyone else?

What game do you look forward to most this season? Western Illinois. We didn't get a chance to play them last year, and I really wanted to see what everyone thought they had over us.

Hobbies, besides playing softball? I really enjoy cooking. I actually wanted to go to culinary school to be a pastry chef but that will have to wait a few years. I'm also into reading.

Describe yourself in three words: silly, motivated, open-minded.

Favorite food, color, and movie? Chicken and dumplings, enchiladas, my momma's fried chicken, & my daddy's ribs...OH and I LOVE ICE CREAM! My favorite color is red, my sexy color, haha. I don't have a favorite movie, but I could watch "Mean Girls" over and over.

What do you see yourself doing in five years? Married, teaching, and probably going to culinary school.

adidas
NTENARY
MID CONTINENT

photo courtesy of GoCentenary.com

WORD SEARCH:
OFFICE SUPPLIES

K	C	S	B	Z	S	I	J	C	D	L	C	C	V	I	Z	Z	G
E	F	T	Z	E	Q	G	P	P	E	N	H	J	U	L	L	Z	P
D	L	A	V	G	F	P	A	I	Y	J	J	T	L	H	I	M	Q
S	B	P	P	M	P	A	P	E	R	W	E	I	G	H	T	E	O
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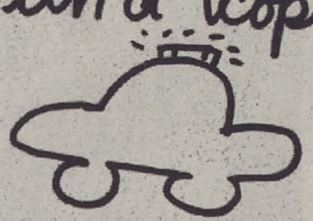
L	G	T	C	N	O	T	E	B	O	O	K	M	U	O	L	D	S

Paper Clip - Scissors - Notebook - Highlighter - Glue - Sharpie - Pen - Pencil - Eraser - Envelopes - Paperweight - Tape - Stapler- Staple Remover - Post It - Stamps

Centenary Secrets

I was involved in
a hit-and-run.
With a cop car.



(This sounds so much worse when you say it aloud)

In order to participate, take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box 786 or slip it under the Conglomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.

Horoscopes

Pisces (2/20-3/20) Remember, you have to graduate eventually. But in the meantime, keep an eye on Libra.

Aries (3/21-4/20) Aquarius has something important to tell you, listen patiently, but keep them at a distance. They like to drop anvils on people.

Taurus (4/21-5/21) Find Cancer and do something fun before you discover that ketchup stain on your shirt. What does it all mean? Beats me.

Gemini (5/22- 6/21) Find some time to spend with Pisces, they are really quite fond of you. Mind you stay away from Leo, they are all dirty, dirty, dirty.

Cancer (6/22-7/23) You will have to choose between Virgo and Libra at some point. Think it through carefully, they are crazy. Maybe the best choice of action is to hang out with Pisces.

Leo (7/24-8/23) Stay away from Taurus, they have a habit of unleashing pigeons on those who disagree with them.

Virgo (8/24-9/23) Hold your breath for 20 minutes and maybe, just maybe Sagittarius will stop annoying you. That, or you will pass out and never be rid of them in your nightmares.

Libra (9/24) Cancer is a jerk, forget them. Actually, don't forget, get revenge. I suggest something involving a razor, syrup, and bleach. Yep.

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) Hold on to your relationship with Capricorn, because they always talk to the best goats and cows. Stay away from Aquarius though, they're always haging out with those chickens.

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) Aries may seem lovable on the outside but I heard from both Virgo and Pisces that they have twelve fingers. And my mother always told me not to trust anyone with deformities.

Capricorn (12/22-1/20) Just because Pisces is a fish does not mean that they smell. So stop being so mean and apologize before they send Cancer after you, you know the crab?

Aquarius (1/21-2/19) Virgo told me that dirty laundry causes cancer. Is it true?

Ups and Downs

↑ **Easter Break**
For simply existing.

↑ **Student Awareness Week**
For successfully bringing attention to pressing world issues.

↑ **Michael Jarboe**
For his fantastic performance at Miss-ter Centenary 2008. And for winning money for the Conglomerate.

↓ **Gas Prices**
For going up.... again.

↓ **Facebook**
For increasingly complicated privacy regulations and the proposed profile changes.

↓ **Hot Professors**
For being married.

Centenary Area Concert Wire

Friday, March 14
KSCL 91.3 FM will host a benefit/birthday show at the Actor's Cafe at 8:00pm. The show is all ages and the cost of admission is free, but we're requesting $5/person for the performers and KSCL's budget. Come support the station and themusicians! The performers include: AJ Haynes, Kirk Reedstrom, Connor Davis, Costas Dafnis, Jeffrey Gabriel, Josiah Rambin, among others. For more information visit www.kscl.fm.

Friday, March 14
Moira Red, Sweetlake Mafia, and Magna Porta will perform at 10 pm at the Warehouse. For more information, please visit the venue's website at www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

Saturday, March 15th
Sunkissed Barrelabisca will film a video shoot with The Halo Error at the Warehouse at 10 pm. Magna Porta will perform also. For more information, please visit the venue's website at www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

Sunday, March 16th
Lucero, Dirtfoot, and Jaguar Shark! will perform at 9 pm at the Warehouse. For more information, please visit the venue's website at www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

Monday, March 17th
The Pasties, a "folky punk" band from Olympia, Washington, will be performing at the Jackrabbit Lounge at 9 pm. For more information, please visit http://www.myspace.com/thepasties or http://www.PastiesArmy.com.

Thursday, March 20 and
Friday, March 21
Canadian Ragweed and Cowboy Mouth will perform at 9:30 PM. Cover is $25 GA for one show, $45 for 2 day pass at Rabb's Steakhouse in Ruston, LA
http://www.crosscanadianragweed.com
http://www.rabbssteakhouse.com/

Friday, March 21st
Space Cadet, Amateur Hour, and the Vehicle Reason will perform at 10 pm at the Warehouse. For more information, please visit the venue's website at www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

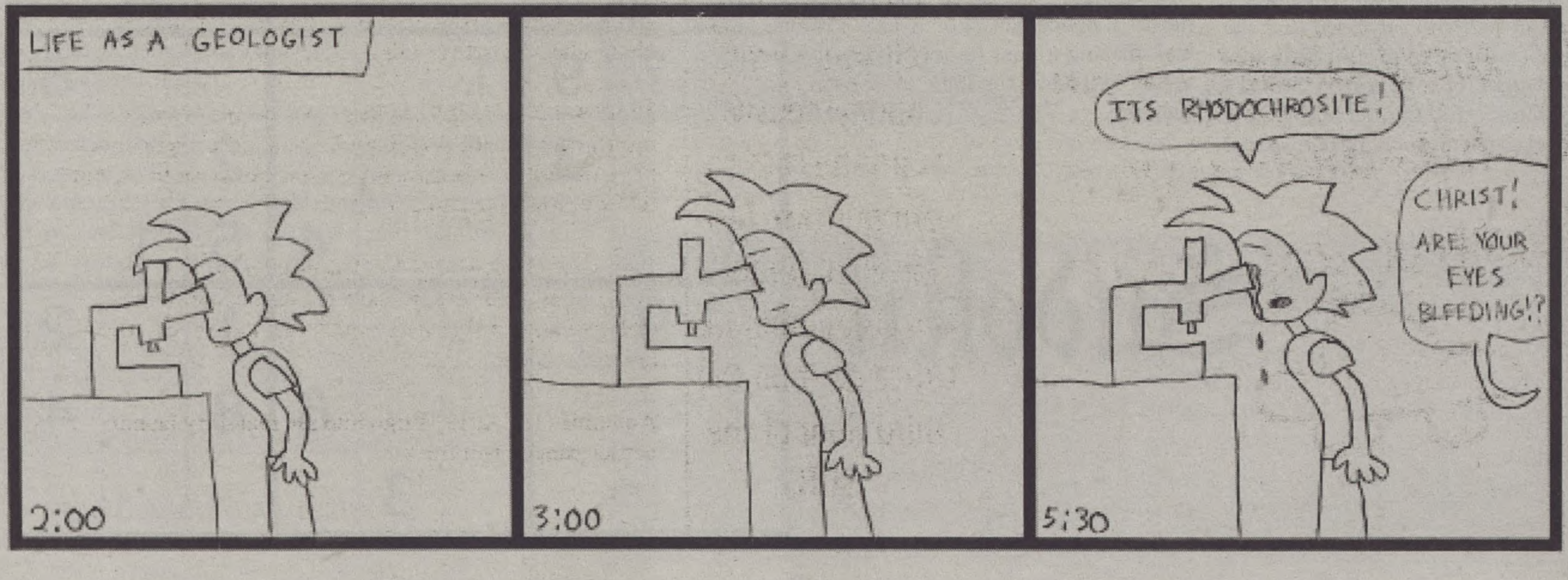
Saturday, March 22nd
Head Panic and Bass Line Bums, Sunday Mass Murder, Jack Blasphemy and Righteous Bucks will perform at 7 pm at the H&H Lounge on Saturday, March 22nd. For more information, please visit www.myspace.com/hhlounge

Saturday, March 26
Shooter Jennings, Charlie Daniels Band and .38 Special will perform at Coushatta Casino Pavilion in Kinder, LA. For more information visit http://www.shooterjennings.com/wolvesden/theden.php

Saturday, March 29
KSCL will host Battle of the Bands at 1 OM in the Shell on Centenary Campus. For more info, please email ksclbotb@gmail.com or call Jon Schleuss at (318) 869-5296

A Day with Christ

by Chris Christ



Strange but true news: woman sits on toilet for two years, becomes stuck

Kat Michiels
Staff Writer

This week: potty-people, death, skeletons, and some random Shreveport news, though not necessarily in that order.

Two women flying from Brazil to Italy were stopped in Munich, Germany, after the X-ray scans showed human skulls and bones in their baggage. I'm thinking murder mystery, thrills, excitement, and suspense! Nope. After the airport police hauled them in and interrogated them, they produced papers giving them the right to transport the bones, which turned out to be the brother of one of the women. They were flying to Italy to fulfill the brother's last wish, which was to be buried in Italy. Even though this story had no murder mystery or CSI crime tape, it did hold a weird side note – the brother died 11 years ago.

Speaking of disappointing news stories that don't hold any mystery, prepare for more disappointment, along with a side of giggles. A woman was hospitalized in Wichita, Kansas, after sitting on her boyfriend's toilet for two years. The boyfriend called police about a month ago to tell them something seemed "wrong" with his girlfriend. Investigations revealed that her muscles had atrophied and she was bound to the porcelain throne by "natural means." The girl's butt was literally stuck to it. Wow. I'm amazed and disgusted and surprised that she missed two seasons of American Idol in exchange for a stationary life in a bathroom. And another thing: how did the boyfriend go to the bathroom? Was there another one in the house? Someone needs to CSI this one. (Yes, I'm turning CSI into a verb.)

Because Americans are so friendly with the French, here's one to set you off: a French mayor has banned its residents from dying, threatening to "severely punish" anyone who disobeys this law. This law was actually passed in a small town in southwest France because the local cemetery is completely out of room. The law forbids anyone to die in the town because there would be no place to bury them. Obviously, the 70-year-old mayor hasn't completely thought this one through. If the mayor were smarter, he would just tell the relatives of the deceased that their last wish was to be buried in Italy, and everyone could fly the skeletons over to Rome.

Finally, because it's always nice to hear when good ol' Shreveport makes national news, we are on many weird news sites because an 11-year-old girl crashed her grandmother's car into the swimming pool at Kingston Village. Apparently the girl was trying to turn on the CD player and "accidentally" put the car in drive. Now whether or not this was an accident, I do not know. I want to know why reporters thought this was actually weird enough to make headlines. Kids do stupid stuff all the time. I think what mostly happened is a reporter saw the word "Louisiana." In other Shreveport news, a policeman shot a dog that was chasing a man he was trying to arrest. I'll leave the logic to you on that one.

KSCL 91.3 presents

Aj Haynes
Connor Davis
Kirk Reedstrom
Costas Dafnis
Jeffrey Gabriel
Josiah Rambin
and others

The Actor's Cafe
March 14th 8:30 PM
Corner of Fairfield and Southern
$5 recommended donation

Come celebrate KSCL's 32nd birthday

Sudoku

				8				
7		6	5					1
4		5					8	
	7	9	1					6
		3				2		
8					4	5	1	
	9					1		2
2					6	8		4
				3				

The CONGLOMERATE

March 28, 2008 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 22

The first BIG Event and fifth Battle of the Bands dominate Centenary's weekend

Amanda Russell
Staff Writer

The BIG Event gets more and more exciting as the time for each team to complete its service project nears. Tomorrow kicks off the first annual Centenary community-wide service event, and it promises to be a great day.

Remember, the BIG Event kickoff rally starts at 9:30 a.m. in the quad. Be there to get your breakfast and get pumped about your service projects.

Thus far, 316 students, faculty, and staff have signed up to volunteer. There are currently 31 teams completing over 35 job requests. If for some reason you haven't signed up with a BIG Event team yet, head on over to the quad on Saturday morning, and BIG Event committee members will make sure you're placed on a team.

The BIG Event is essentially a community service day. To help celebrate Centenary's centennial in Shreveport-Bossier City, SGA President Holly Williams, the BIG Event Committee, and the Student Government Association have planned a community service project that will help Centenary's neighbors in the historic Highland district (for the geography-illiterate among us, the Highland area district are the homes and neighborhoods surrounding Centenary).

The BIG Event Committee has requested household jobs from residents that live near the college. These will consist of small projects such as painting shutters, raking, preparing for new paint, cleaning sidewalks, etc.

"I am excited to see all the hard work come together and to see the reactions on the neighbors' faces when we are done," said Junior Ally Gann, member of the BIG Event committee.

After the kick-off rally, teams will proceed over to the Fitness Center around 10 a.m. to pick up their tools to use on their respective service projects from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

BIG Event volunteers have over 440 tools to work with. There are approximately 43 bush trimmers, 70 rakes, 23 bottles of Windex, 83 paintbrushes and rollers, and 1 pick axe.

After each project is completed, volunteers and community members will head back to Centenary to enjoy the Battle of the Bands hosted by KSCL in the Shell as well as the BIG Event Community Celebration held on Jones-Rice Field. Make sure to show up to get your free food and fun entertainment. See you tomorrow!

THE BIG EVENT

Centenary College 100 years in Shreveport-Bossier

KSCL 91.3 presents

Battle of the Bands

March 29
1pm
the Shell
Centenary College

1:10 - the Peekers
1:35 the Dark Pop Project
2:00 And, Wellington
2:25 the Situation
2:40 15 min break
RAFFLE
3:05 6 Pack Deep

3:30 Chris James
3:55 Missoni Lanza
4:20 Midwest Caravan
4:35 10 min Break
RAFFLE
4:45 The winner will be announced

INSIDE

Read about the Battle of the Bands on page 8

Centenary debates the right to die, page 4

Opera Workshop to perform next weekend, page 8

Men's basketball coach Flaska parts ways with Centenary after three seasons, page 13

We're now online!
Check out www.thecconglomerate.com

Letter from the editor: The long and winding road to May

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

People who are still lethargic from the lingering effects of Spring Break (Easter Recess, whatever you call it) have something to look forward to: there are only a few weeks remaining in this semester.

Though the number is small on paper, it seems to stretch on endlessly for many students, especially downtrodden and exhausted seniors: between now and graduation, there is a nonstop parade of due dates for seminars, essays, and research projects with a sprinkling of tests among them (never mind figuring out life after May 10).

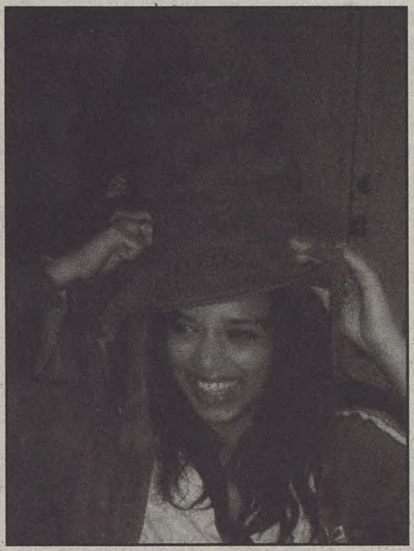
Despite all the stress and headaches ahead, though, there is something Centenary and especially seniors should remember – the importance of enjoying the end of the semester.

I am speaking from the point of view of someone who only has a few weeks left at Centenary – ever (!), but this is applicable to all students. The College has several exciting events packed into this time of the semester, and it would be a shame for people to miss everything because they're too busy feverishly finishing bibliographies or catching up on sleep.

As is stamped all over this issue, tomorrow marks the first ever BIG Event as well as the 5th annual Battle of the Bands, sponsored by KSCL, but the college activities don't end there. Next weekend will bring both a Ben Folds concert (with opener Eef Barzelay) and the results of semester-long dedication to an opera workshop when students take the stage to perform The Mikado.

There's also Diversity Week, the forum with the results from the student satisfaction survey, and the culmination of the Chains for Change fundraiser, all to take place in April.

Making the most of the rest of the time here doesn't just mean attending Centenary events, though that is an important aspect of it – it also means spending quality time with friends (both students and professors) in between bouts of marathon studying and reading. I know this probably best of all – having spent much of my semester shirking my professors because I procrastinate(d) too much on my assignments, I am now regretting that fact, realizing what little time I have left. Don't get me wrong, I'm as stressed as the next person with a mountain of work in front of me, but on the off chance that somebody reading this is fretting more about school than anything else, I have this to say: take a deep breath, enjoy how beautiful our campus is in the spring, and balance productivity with enjoyment. Easier said than done, yes, but it's never too late to realize what's most important in (college) life, even with just a little while to go.



In times of severe stress, I escape to my happy place by a) working on The Conglomerate and/or b) pretending I attend Hogwarts. If you're curious, I was sorted as a Gryffindor, but personally believe I am of the Slytherin persuasion.
Yes, the Congo Editor-in-Chief is slightly demented.

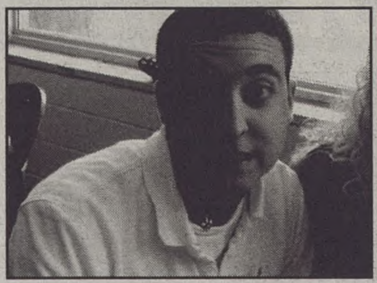
Question of the Week

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE BIG EVENT?

(to find out more about the community-wide service project, see page ___)

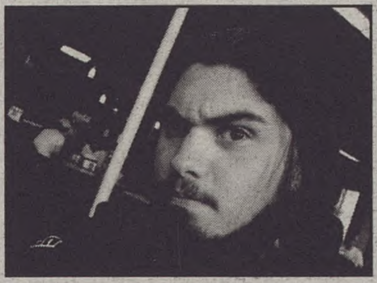
"Club in the SUB."
-Cara Miccoli,
Sophomore

"Free food cooked by Stacey Stokes."
-Gabe Silvas,
Junior



"Roland's strip show."
-Josh Coco,
Senior

"Slightly smaller than the huge event."
-Lauren Brown,
Senior



"Pinks! All out Red River Race Way this Friday and Saturday."
-Roland Womack,
Sophomore

"Campus-wide orgy."
-Steven Turner,
Senior

FEATURES

Letter to the editor: a response concerning criticism of the 1958 time capsule display

To Whom It May Concern:

After reading the jab in the February 29 issue's "Ups and Downs" Section of The Conglomerate, I thought it was important that the Centenary community understand the full story about the time capsule and the display that was shown at Morning Call.

When the 1958 time capsule was opened, very little survived the test of time. After help from Kathy Brodnax, Collections Manager & Flash Gallery Coordinator for the Meadows Museum, a few items were salvaged. They included two Shreveport Magazines, a Methodist Family Magazine, a partial page of a school directory, pieces of a city map and a piece of a church directory.

These items are so fragile they could not be displayed; therefore, photos were taken of the remains and displayed for Morning Call. They were displayed in a way that many people could come and view the photos at one time.

A subsequent display was made for Magale Library that is currently in a large glass case in the lobby. According to an October 1958 issue of The Conglomerate, ten items were to be placed in the time capsule. The library display contains duplicates or reproductions of eight of those ten items. Items not included are photos of the freshman class dressed in predicted 2008 student attire and a program of Centenary's Golden Anniversary Events.

Items that are displayed include:

A) Pieces of the October Conglomerate featuring information about the time capsule and its contents

B) The outer piece of copper tubing that enclosed item "C"

C) The remains of the inner piece of copper tubing that held the time capsule contents - it was damaged in order to remove the items inside

D) Cover of The Centenary Section of The Shreveport Times (October 5, 1958)

E) The Shreveport Journal - front page and jump page with Centenary Article inset (October 6, 1958)

F) The cover of the September issue of The Shreveport Magazine – with contents page inset

G) A 1958 Student Handbook

H) A 1950s city map

I) A brochure of the Louisiana State Fair

J) A page from the church section of the city phone directory (to serve as part of a city church directory)

K) 1958 Methodist Literature

L) Photos of the opening of the time capsule and the items that survived

If you have any more questions, please let me know. Thank you for your time.

Saige Wilhite '05
Assistant Director of Alumni Relations
awilhite@centenary.edu
318.869.5115 (office)

Student Satisfaction Survey results

409/809 students participated, or 60.6%

A forum will happen in April as soon as the Enrollment Management Committee reviews the results and sets a date.

LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES!

Monday, March 31 is the last date to drop a class or change to pass-fail. Please make sure your signed forms are in our office prior to this deadline. All drops must be signed by your instructor and your advisor. You must get both signatures. Changes to pass-fail only require your advisor's signature. You may not attempt more than 18 hours as pass-fail. Even if you make a D or F in a pass-fail grade mode, those attempts still count against your allotted 18 hours.

Students may not drop ENGL 101. First year students may not attempt any classes as pass-fail.

If for any reason you need to drop all classes, you must go through the Provost's office to withdraw from school.

Please check to see if you have any holds that prevent your registration.

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Centenary debates the right to die

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Extreme tales of futility and hope may not be something the average Centenary student is exposed to on a daily basis, but on Wednesday night, Woodrow Wilson fellow Dr. Chris Hackler brought the harrowing issue of the right to die into the spotlight.

Around 50 Centenary students, faculty, staff and community members gathered in the Whited Room of Bynum Commons for Hackler's lecture, entitled "Futility or Hope: Science or Politics at the End of Life?"

Hackler is the Director of the Division of Medical Humanities at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine. In addition to Wednesday night's lecture, he has spent the week meeting with students both in and out of classes and hospice and health care professionals.

His "Futility or Hope" presentation focused on two main cases, those of Terri Schiavo and Terry Wallis. The former, he concluded, was a case of futility, while Wallis presented a scenario of hope for brain-damaged patients.

Though the cases were very similar, as both suffered from extensive brain damage, Hackler said the important difference was in the diagnosis: Schiavo was deemed permanently unconscious while Wallis was minimally conscious. A vegetative state means the individual is wakeful but gives no signs of reproducible or purposeful responses; essentially, they are "awake but not aware" (Hackler's words). A minimally conscious patient, on the other hand, has awareness that fluctuates and responses that are episodic.

Wallis was in a car accident at the age of 19, fell into a coma, and then stabilized in a minimally conscious state a few weeks later. Though his doctors had all but given up on him and even advised his family to discontinue treatment, he woke up in 2003 – 19 years after his accident, still believing that Ronald Reagan was President. Though his recovery has been slow, Wallis is now able to engage in conversation.

The Schiavo case was much more well-known thanks to the involvement and controversy raised by some members of Congress – she collapsed in 1990, was diagnosed as in a persistent vegetative state, and after 15 years in this condition, her husband petitioned to have her feeding tubes removed. The result was a nationwide debate over the right to die, the husband's right to choose for her (Schiavo had no living will or other advance directive), and the hospital's responsibility in making a decision. Senator Bill Frist, a licensed physician in general and heart surgery, famously diagnosed Schiavo via videotaped footage – a poor diagnosis from afar of which Dr. Hackler candidly said, "He should have known better than to diagnose Terri from a video clip."

Another main part of Hackler's lecture focused on "defending the integrity of scientific objectivity over political partisanship." He emphasized the importance of maintaining a pragmatic, objective, scientific lens for viewing these issues rather than getting embroiled in ideology, as happened in the Schiavo case. He singled out the Hippocratic Oath, which all medical students must take, and which states that doctors must "act solely for the benefit of the patient."

Using that framework, Hackler said, "I would say [Terri Schiavo] was beyond a medical benefit, if she was unaware, but there is certainly a concern for her personal dignity in such a situation."

Hackler also spoke on the cost of care, a "very contentious issue." With the "unsettling figure" of 56-170 per million severe brain trauma cases in the United States per year, he pointed to how expensive it is to "bring these patients back to any level of functionality." His research showed that such care can cost anywhere from $600,000 to $1.875 million (there was also one single report of over $6 million).

On the question of the massive resources invested in Schiavo's care, he said, "In my view, there is no question that the financial resources were disproportionate to any medical benefit." After many drawn out legal battles, her feeding tubes were removed, and she passed away in hospice care in 2005.

Hackler also wanted to dispel the notion that Schiavo's passing was an "evil, heartless, public execution," which he calls "a popular misunderstanding." Though she had no living will, Schiavo's husband said that her wish in such a situation was to discontinue treatment.

In a question-and-answer session that followed his lecture, Hackler acknowledged that one cannot say "there is absolutely no hope" in a case like Schiavo's, "but there is no reasonable hope."

A major problem is that "there is no uniform policy in this country" on how to deal with brain-damaged patients in persistent vegetative states and the like, said Hackler.

"We should not go into the issue with a preconceived idea of how this should turn out," he said, stating that the political right could claim Wallis's awakening as proof that Schiavo was killed, while the political left feared that "the hard-won right to die would be lost."

"You can blur distinctions on both sides. It's very important that we remain objective and pursue scientific knowledge for potential discovery."

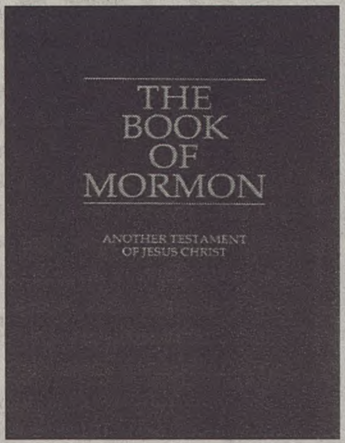
Hackler thanked Dr. Chris Ciocchetti of the Philosophy Department for "arranging a really great week" and said he has "really enjoyed such a beautiful campus."

Attaway fellow to lecture on "Mormons in America"

Stephanie Schreiber
Features Editor

Centenary will soon welcome noted author and historian Richard Lyman Bushman, Ph.D., as an Attaway Fellow in Civic Culture. Bushman will present "Mormons in America," a six-day series of public talks, starting on Tuesday, April 1. During these free events, presented by the Christian Leadership Center and Attaway Fellow in Civic Culture, Bushman will discuss various aspects of the oft-misunderstood Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Attaway Professorships are awarded to public intellectuals who can share unique perspectives with Centenary students and the local community. Bushman has taught at esteemed universities and published several books on cultural and religious history. He is a leading scholar on Mormonism and its founder Joseph Smith, and he is an active member of the Church.



Three of Bushman's speaking events will be hosted in Kilpatrick Auditorium on Tuesday, April 1, and Thursday, April 3: "Joseph Smith's Theology" at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, "What It's Like To Be Mormon" during the 11:00 a.m. convocation on Thursday, and "What Mormons Want" at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday.

"Joseph's Relationship with God," to be held at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 6, will take place at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 200 Carroll Street here in Shreveport.

Registration is required in order to attend Bushman's special seminar on Saturday, "Can Mormons Join the Conversation?" Registration will begin that morning at 9:00 a.m. in room 201 of the Hurley School of Music, and the seminar will last until 4:00 p.m.

For more information, contact the Christian Leadership Center at 318-869-5156 or christianleadership@centenary.edu.

Feed the Sexy: The date auction with a twist takes place tonight

Karyn Gehrls
Staff Writer

Today Rotary, Sexton, and James Hall Councils and RAs will be hosting "Feed the Sexy," a date auction with a slight twist. Instead of bidding on dates with money, students are asked to bid with canned goods (such as canned soup, Ramen noodles, and even Kool-Aid packets). This date auction will support the local food bank and allow students to get a free, fun-filled date in the process.

To get everyone excited and ready to bid, here are a few fun facts about each "auctionee." First year student and all-around amazing person Taylor Gruner was on the Junior Olympic Hockey Team. She enjoys sports, eating, music, reading, writing, art, bass guitar, and dancing. Make sure you have money to buy her coffee and please, she begs of you, shower beforehand!

Mindy McKoin, a junior RA in Sexton, enjoys working out, reading, listening to music, traveling, and doing community service. She likes someone who can handle a good conversation and can make her laugh.

Another freshman, Zakk Owens (known by most of you as "Red Hot Sugar Lips" in Miss-ter Centenary) enjoys singing, playing music, teaching, playing Guitar Hero, and watching movies. He says, "Having fun is the main priority; we can do the love stuff later."

Yet another freshman (I'm noticing a trend here), Cazes Verbois, enjoys writing and having exciting adventures. Make this man smile and help him have more great and exciting adventures by bidding on him!

Austin Price, a first year student as well, enjoys breathing, hugs (lots of hugs), mayonnaise, and sensory deprivation. His ideal date would involve lots of hugs, less than two people, and "it needs to end with one of us chopped up in pieces underneath the other's floorboards." Of course, he's just kidding. He will keep you rolling around on the floor laughing your, well, you-know-what off.

Three more RAs, Roland Womack, Kyle McGimsey, and Nicole Turner will be auctioned off as well. There are two surprise auctions happening near the end of the event, so don't sneak out early. This, you don't want to miss! You will be able to bid on two of Centenary's best and brightest professors and go on a date with them. It's a great chance to get to know your faculty members and peers.

It's all happening Friday, March 28 at 8:00 p.m. in James Lobby. Be there, or miss out on a chance to get to know your fellow Centenary students and go out on a free date to Club in the SUB at 10:00 p.m. the same night, all at the expense of your Hall Councils and RAs.

Student Government Association

Notes from the SGA meeting on March 25, 2008, in the Centenary Room of the caf:

Resolutions withdrawn:

Resolution 0708_37 to allocate $49.95 to the Centenary College Democrats to reimburse members for the cost of the supplies used to create an Iraq War exhibit.
(withdrawn because Facilities is reimbursing the Democrats)

Resolutions passed:

Resolution 0708_38 to allocate $250.00 to Side-By-Side and Amnesty International to help fund Homeless Awareness Week, April 7 – 11, 2008, by voice vote.

Extra Business:

Amendments to the By-laws tabled until next meeting due to low attendance.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 1, at 8:00 p.m. in the Centenary Room of the caf. All students, faculty, and staff are welcome to attend!

ZTA hosting Think Pink golf tournament

Nadine Kaskas
Staff Writer

On Saturday, April 5, Centenary's Zeta Tau Alpha is hosting the 4th Annual Think Pink Golf Tournament at Olde Oaks Golf Club to raise money for breast cancer education, research, and scholastic achievement.

All students, faculty, and staff are invited to play in the tournament. It is $50 for students and $100 for falculty/staff. There will be a free lunch served and there will be baskets auctioned off.

The Think Pink Tournaments are part of Zeta Tau Alpha's partnership with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

For more information, please contact Jessica Miller at jmiller@centenary.edu or call 318-820-6938.

History majors win big honors

Centenary News Service

SHREVEPORT, La.—Centenary College was well represented at the Louisiana Regional Meeting of Phi Alpha Theta, the history honor society, March 14 and 15 when four students presented papers at the annual meeting in Lafayette, La.

Senior history majors Mary Wubbena, Margaret McDonald, Amanda Russell and Miranda Tucker were among thirty-one students from 10 colleges and universities who presented papers on various topics. The four students represented Centenary's Alpha-Alpha-Omega chapter, with each student double majoring in history and political science.

During the meeting, Mary Wubbena was awarded the Kimberly Hanger Prize for the best undergraduate paper presented. The students and their papers were:

Margaret McDonald, "The Centenary College Choir: Becoming America's Singing Ambassadors."

Amanda Russell, "Ballots, Barriers, Purges, and Surges: African-American Voting Rights in Shreveport and Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1958-1969."

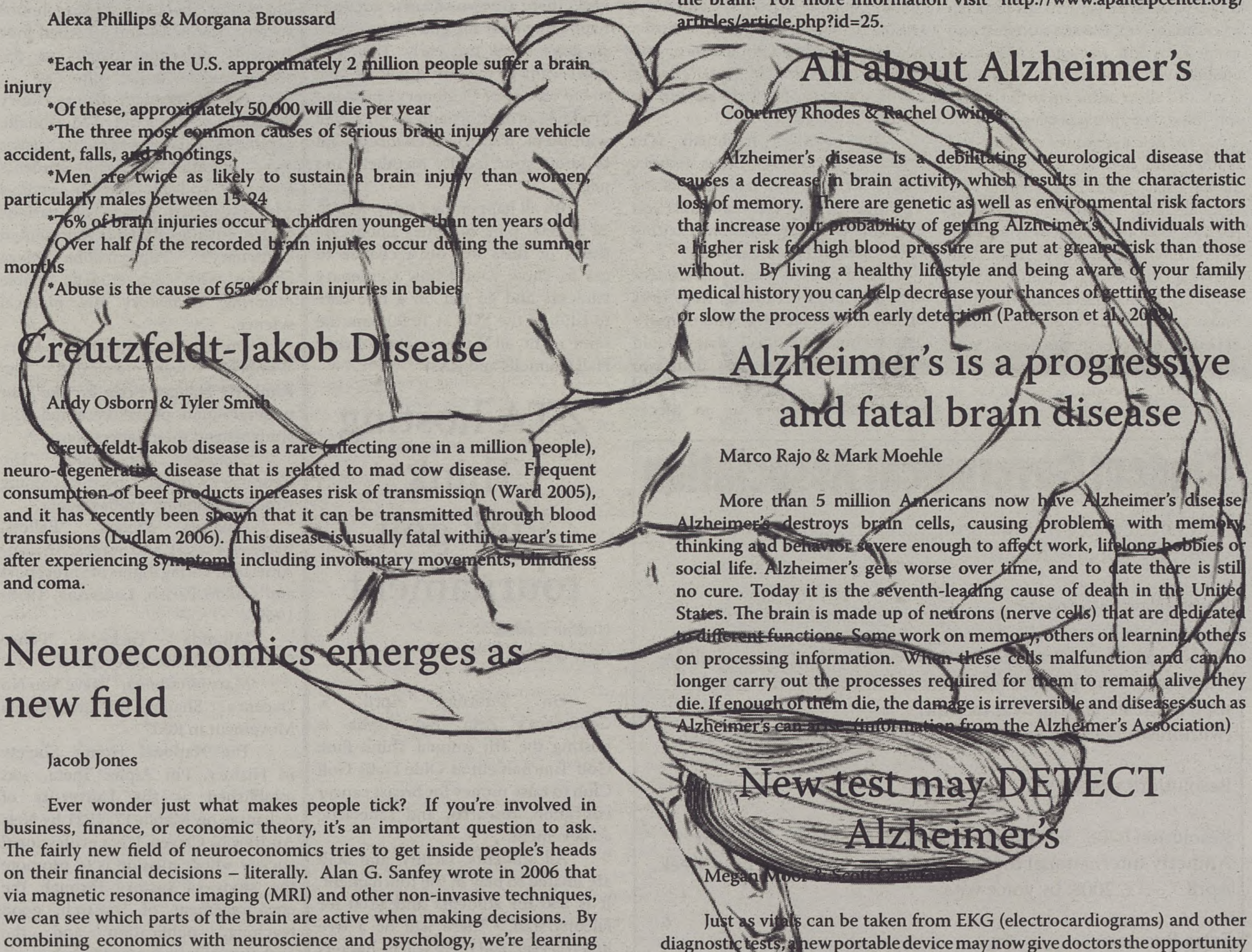
Miranda Tucker, "Police Brutality in 1960s Shreveport."

Mary Wubbena, "'Have You No Decency?': Shading the Civil Rights Movement in Red."

The National Honor Society in History, Phi Alpha Theta, was established at the University of Arkansas on March 17, 1921 by Nels Andrew N. Cleven. It is a professional society whose mission is to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians. The society seeks to bring students, teachers and writers of history together for intellectual and social exchanges, which promote and assist historical research and publication by our members in a variety of ways.

BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK 2008

Editor's note: National Brain Awareness Week was March 10-14. Centenary's Neuroscience classes have been raising awareness with brain-related prints and models on display in Magale lobby. Students in Dr. Greg Butcher's Introduction to Neuroscience class also invented hands-on activities to teach to Hillsdale Elementary students during that week. In honor of Brain Awareness Week, those same students have written short, informative articles on various aspects of the brain, brain-related diseases, and new developments in neuroscience, which are published here.



Brain injuries: the statistics

Alexa Phillips & Morgana Broussard

*Each year in the U.S. approximately 2 million people suffer a brain injury

*Of these, approximately 50,000 will die per year

*The three most common causes of serious brain injury are vehicle accident, falls, and shootings.

*Men are twice as likely to sustain a brain injury than women, particularly males between 15-24

*76% of brain injuries occur in children younger than ten years old

*Over half of the recorded brain injuries occur during the summer months

*Abuse is the cause of 65% of brain injuries in babies

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

Andy Osborn & Tyler Smith

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is a rare (affecting one in a million people), neuro-degenerative disease that is related to mad cow disease. Frequent consumption of beef products increases risk of transmission (Ward 2005), and it has recently been shown that it can be transmitted through blood transfusions (Ludlam 2006). This disease is usually fatal within a year's time after experiencing symptoms including involuntary movements, blindness and coma.

Neuroeconomics emerges as new field

Jacob Jones

Ever wonder just what makes people tick? If you're involved in business, finance, or economic theory, it's an important question to ask. The fairly new field of neuroeconomics tries to get inside people's heads on their financial decisions – literally. Alan G. Sanfey wrote in 2006 that via magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and other non-invasive techniques, we can see which parts of the brain are active when making decisions. By combining economics with neuroscience and psychology, we're learning to figure out what leads people to choose for or against a purchase, and hopefully it'll lead to an improvement in our economic policy – as well as learning just how to force ourselves to resist buying the newest deck of Pokemon cards.

Background image credit: Suggestive Contour Gallery at cs.princeton.edu.

Toning your brain

Lauren Cheaney & Brittany Blackwell

Working hard to achieve that "summer swimsuit body" can be more beneficial than you think. According to the American Psychological Association, evidence suggests that physically active people have lower rates of anxiety and depression than people who are not physically active. Hitting the gym is not only good for the body, but it is good for the brain! For more information visit http://www.apahelpcenter.org/articles/article.php?id=25.

All about Alzheimer's

Courtney Rhodes & Rachel Owings

Alzheimer's disease is a debilitating neurological disease that causes a decrease in brain activity, which results in the characteristic loss of memory. There are genetic as well as environmental risk factors that increase your probability of getting Alzheimer's. Individuals with a higher risk for high blood pressure are put at greater risk than those without. By living a healthy lifestyle and being aware of your family medical history you can help decrease your chances of getting the disease or slow the process with early detection (Patterson et al., 2008).

Alzheimer's is a progressive and fatal brain disease

Marco Rajo & Mark Moehle

More than 5 million Americans now have Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's destroys brain cells, causing problems with memory, thinking and behavior severe enough to affect work, lifelong hobbies or social life. Alzheimer's gets worse over time, and to date there is still no cure. Today it is the seventh-leading cause of death in the United States. The brain is made up of neurons (nerve cells) that are dedicated to different functions. Some work on memory, others on learning, others on processing information. When these cells malfunction and can no longer carry out the processes required for them to remain alive, they die. If enough of them die, the damage is irreversible and diseases such as Alzheimer's can arise. (information from the Alzheimer's Association)

New test may DETECT Alzheimer's

Megan Moor & Scott [illegible]

Just as vitals can be taken from EKG (electrocardiograms) and other diagnostic tests, a new portable device may now give doctors the opportunity to assess whether a patient may be in the early stages of Alzheimer ’s disease (AD). The device, developed at Georgia Tech and Emory, called DETECT, tests patients on a variety of visual and auditory stimuli. The tests run by DETECT are designed to gauge a patient's reaction time and memory capabilities. The test, which only takes around 10 minutes, may be able to allow doctors to start prophylactic treatment before the more severe symptoms of AD, such as dementia, arise.

A&E

Ben Folds tickets selling quickly

Image credit: musicspot.sonybmg.com.

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Ben Folds will perform at Centenary's Gold Dome next Friday, April 4, courtesy of Fighting Squirrels Productions. He is arguably the biggest modern musical act who has come to the campus in recent years (all due credit to Better than Ezra), as he is famous for fronting the piano rock trio Ben Folds Five ("Kate," "Brick") and has also done notable solo work ("Rockin' the Suburbs," "Jesusland").

Fighting Squirrels Productions has worked hard in recent weeks to raise money for the concert, doing all kinds of fundraisers from car washes to serving pizza at a local CiCi's. Another car wash will take place this Friday, March 28, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the parking lot of Turner Art Center.

"CiCi's was especially exciting," said FSP President Naana Frezel. "A lot of people came out to support us and we really appreciated it."

Frezel also said "ticket sales are going really well, internet sales especially. Lots of students have expressed their excitement about the concert."

Maggie Mahoney, resident Ben Folds freak and senior, saw him live two years ago in Ruston. "He was awesome, he called William Shatner on the phone, we listened as his voicemail picked up," she said. "He does a good live show. I'm just really excited to get to see him again."

Many other students are echoing that sentiment – sophomore Mark Moehle said, "I can't believe Centenary actually got someone decent." Indeed, the event goes well with Preview Weekend, where hundreds of prospective students come to Centenary before officially deciding whether or not to enroll in the College.

Freshman Riley Adams agreed with Mahoney and Moehle: "Thank God it wasn't some '80s reunion tour," though he amended it to "Thank God he's coming" after those present agreed they probably would go to an '80s reunion tour (depending on the artists).

KSCL Station Manager Jon Schleuss has advised students to purchase tickets as soon as possible as "this show will most likely sell out," pointing to not just Centenary but community-wide interest throughout Shreveport and Bossier City in the concert.

Frezel confirmed this, saying Centenary "has received several calls asking about ticket information, so we are anticipating a successful show with a great turn out. So far, ticket sales are in the triple digits. We know a lot of people like to wait until the day of the show to purchase theirs, but I would tell anyone to get them now to be on the safe side."

Tickets are being sold in the caf and the Admissions Office. They cost $15 for students and $20 for non-students. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.centenarytickets.com.

Some FSP members carry tickets with them, according to Frezel; the members of Fighting Squirrels are Frezel, Mary Walter, Liz Tomsula, Mary Ham, Saul Castaneda, Tracy Gilbeau, Cory Shadd, and Jessica Pfanner. For more information, email fsp@centenary.edu.

Eef Barzelay, an American musician born in Israel, will be Ben Folds' supporting act. Barzelay is known for his work with the alt country band Clem Snide, an alt country band. The concert starts at 8:00 p.m. on April 4 in the Gold Dome.

Opera Workshop brings a taste of Japan to Centenary with a production of The Mikado

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Centenary students will show off the results of a semester's hard work in operatic form next Friday and Saturday with The Mikado, billed as the most popular Gilbert and Sullivan opera (and "arguably the most popular opera ever written," according to the online Gilbert and Sullivan archive).

Bob Harper, who teaches the opera workshop this semester and is the show's director, chose the show because it is "accessible to younger singers," according to cast member and Centenary sophomore Bret Bello.

"Something like Madame Butterfly or La Boheme is damaging to a younger singer's voice," said Bello, referring to Mikado as a contrast because it is "light."

The Mikado is light indeed – it is a comic opera in two acts. British politics and society are satirized in an entertaining way throughout the story, set in Japan, which Gilbert pointedly did in several of his operas (Gilbert wrote the book and lyrics while Sullivan composed the music). The successful duo wrote 14 comic operas together, including famous ones like The Pirates of Penzance.

"It's kind of crazy, so you have to pay attention to it," said Bello. "It's a fun story, there's all sorts of plot twists and turns. Opera is typically very heavy, but this is lighter, funnier. It's fun to perform."

Bello plays Nanki-Poo, one of the lead roles, and the son of the Great Mikado, who is played by Travis Orr. Rounding out the main cast are students Adam Philley (Pooh-Bah), Lori Lusted (Pitti-Sing), Karen Massey (Yum-Yum), Missy Wise (Katisha), Vincent Turregano (Ko-Ko), and Virginia Apple-Yates (Peep-Bo).

"Most upperclassmen have done [opera] before from being in the workshop or the Shreveport Opera, but for a lot of the freshmen, this is their first time doing an operatic performance," said Bello.

The opera workshop class has been working on The Mikado since January and are now deep into rehearsals, which are taking place both during regular class time and every evening until the performance. The shows will take place in Anderson Auditorium at the Hurley School of Music on Friday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m.

5th annual Battle of the Bands offers music, prizes, and fun

Jon Schleuss
Contributing Writer

KSCL will host the 5th Annual Battle of the Bands this Saturday, March 29, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. All the excitement happens this Saturday in the Shell (rain location: Kilpatrick). I remember the 4th Annual Battle of the Bands. I was the MC. So, here's Schleuss, announcing the acts and applying witty commentary here and there. It was also our moment to announce the official roll-over of the 2600 watt transmitter that now broadcasts our signal. It was a spectacular night. But it was sure long. Now KSCL is readying for the 5th Annual Battle of the Bands. This year, we've cut the acts down to eight, from twelve. KSCL has also moved the event to a warmer part of the year. This should help out the audience. I remember students bringing blankets last year. We've also moved the event to the middle of the day, instead of the night. This seems better for bands and fans, allowing everyone to attend nighttime concerts across the city. We'll also play a part in the BIG Event. After the community work, everyone will come back to campus for food and entertainment. We'll be the entertainment. I hope that organizations work with KSCL in the future. I see our merging events as promoting everyone, especially the unique work of our students. This years acts include: 6 Pack Deep, The Dark Pop Project, And Wellington, The Situation, The Peekers, Chris James, Missoni Lanza, and Midwest Caravan. KSCL will also have raffle tickets for sale to raise money. Each ticket will cost $1, and everyone can buy an unlimited amount. The raffle prizes this year are awesome. They include: t-shirts from Pipes Emporium and Disc Daddy, a $15 gift certificate for Disc Daddy, a $10 gift certificate to Replays Gameware, a $10 gift certificate to Courtyard Coffee, a $25 gift certificate to Plato's Closet, two $20 gift certificates to Third Eye Tattoo (formerly Modern Primitive), a dinner voucher for two at George's Grill, a $25 gift certificate to PieWorks Pizza, and a $50 gift certificate to C. C. Hardman downtown. Special thanks goes to Tyler Davis and John Gianforte for their hard work here. Coffee addicts, clothing fanatics, the tattoo-curious, and art students get excited! There's a lot to win and great bands to see. For more information visit our blog at kscl.blogspot.com.

What grinds my gears: Accessories, whorish politicians, and nachos

Jaya Sharma
Contributing Writer

You know what really grinds my gears? Celebrities and their infantile accessories. And by infantile, I mean actual infants. Babies taken from Ethiopia or other third-world regions stricken with poverty being rescued by A-list (as in asinine) celebs, which of course has nothing to do with getting good press and accolades of, "my goodness, famous AND a humanitarian? Jesus must be so proud." Please, people. If you really want to help, I've got about 100 crack babies in Shreveport that wouldn't mind trading in hours of neglect for a Burberry shopping spree on Sunset Boulevard. Well, I don't have them personally, you understand. I've just seen them around. I hang out in some shady areas. What.

You know what else grinds my gears? Politicians who sleep with prostitutes, and the women who stand by them. It's not so much the sexual solicitation that bothers me, because hey, after a fifth of crown and some ganja, who hasn't thought that was a good idea. That to me is reality – ugly and probably a little bit smelly, but reality nonetheless. What isn't realistic is the stone-faced pseudo-support of the wives who stand next to the Spitters (the Spitzer-Vitter combo, as it were) while the politicians express "remorse" and "guilt" and "shame" – as in, "I can't believe I got effing caught, discretion cost me 50 extra bucks!" Give me a break, ladies. Just once on the 5 o'clock news I want to see Mrs. Spitzer or Vitter or even Clinton bitch-slap their respective pants-droppers and say, "oh HELL no you didn't!" That would amuse me. That would amuse me very much.

What else? Nachos. Why can't they be a healthy diet food that helps you lose weight instead of packing on the pounds until you can actually hear your jeans sobbing as you put them on? I mean they just taste so damn good with their chips and their cheese and their available-at-4-am-ness. Frick.

Last but not least, watch your ass, America. Kristy Lee Cook is still on American Idol. I warned you. Now you shall pay. You shall pay dearly.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is what really grinds my gears.

Oliver Stone's biopic about President Bush to film in Shreveport

Josh Brolin will star as Dubya in "W."

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Famous film director Oliver Stone's ambitious biopic about President George W. Bush – simply entitled "W." – will be filming in the most unexpected of places: Shreveport.

The Shreveport Times announced Wednesday that "W." is in pre-production and will likely begin shooting on April 21 and wrap on June 20.

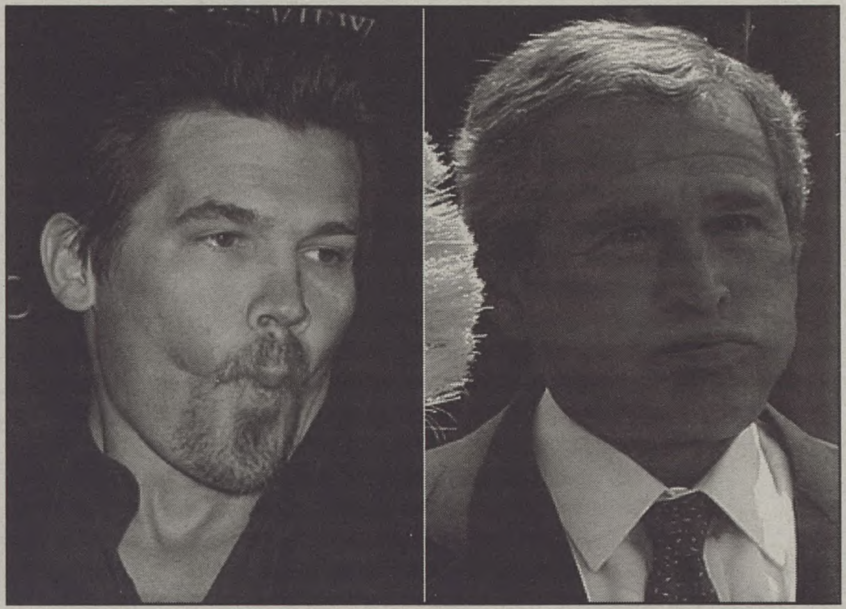
Oliver Stone, whom Shreveport Times film reporter and movie buff Alexandyr Kent calls "a Hollywood Icon," is known for directing recent films such as "World Trade Center" and "Alexander" and also older films like "Platoon."

Stone is also no stranger to the presidential life, with the credits of "JFK" and "Nixon" under his belt. The director has said this film will have a lighter feel to it than "Nixon," but that it will also be a "fair and accurate portrait" (according to Entertainment Weekly), focusing on everything from his wild days as a young adult, his turn to Christianity, and his relationship with father George H. W. Bush.

The lead role, cowboy boots and all, will be filled by Josh Brolin, who has received critical acclaim for his roles in "American Gangster," "In the Valley of Elah," and "No Country for Old Men" just in 2007.

As of press time, Elizabeth Banks ("The 40-Year-Old Virgin," "Spiderman") is in final negotiations to play First Lady Laura Bush, also according to Entertainment Weekly's online website (www.ew.com).

"W." is currently accepting resumes for crew positions at fax number (318) 608-9556.



Actor Josh Brolin and President George W. Bush are not exactly identical twins, but a penchant for funny faces isn't the only thing they have in common. Director Oliver Stone, who has cast Brolin as Bush, said he "has the same drive and charisma that Americans identify with Bush, who has some of that old-time movie-star swagger," according to Daily Variety. Image credit: www.metro.co.uk.

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Movie review: Tyler Perry's "Meet the Browns" is nothing new

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Tyler Perry delivers a drama with "Meet the Browns." Unfortunately, many people were expecting a comedy. However, the movie was good.

Angela Bassett plays Brenda Brown, a single mother of three who is struggling to make ends meet and not succeeding very well. After a series of unfortunate events, Brenda gets a letter informing her that the father she never met died. She takes her children to Georgia where she meets her father's side of the family for the first time.

David Mann brings the well-known role of Mr. Brown to the big screen. Mr. Brown is funny and dresses wildly. He serves as some of the comedic relief that the audience needs so the movie won't be too heavy.

Jennifer Lewis as Vera Brown also serves as comic relief. Vera is an alcoholic. Drunks and formal events like funerals don't mix well. Sofia Vergara plays Cheryl, Brenda's best friend. Cheryl is a bipolar Latina who is hilarious.

Play favorite Tamela Mann brings her role of Cora to the big screen. Though she is known for her one-liners, Cora is dressed beautifully in every scene that she is in. Rick Fox plays Harry, a former basketball player with a past. He becomes Brenda's love interest.

Lance Gross plays Michael, a high school basketball phenomenon and Brenda's oldest child. The majority of the drama in the movie revolves around him.

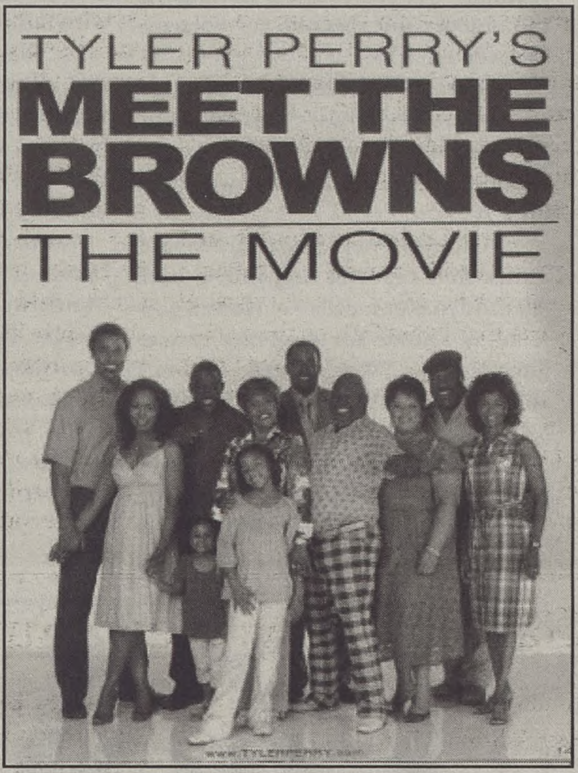
Tyler Perry makes a cameo as Madea and Uncle Joe being chased by the police. This foreshadows the movie "Madea Goes to Jail."

The scene transitions are a great part of the movie. The way the setting changes from Brenda going from Chicago to Georgia and the development of her relationship with Harry is beautiful and shows a progression in the way Tyler Perry puts a movie together.

There were some aspects of "Meet the Browns" that should have been altered to make the movie more believable. Michael plays basketball and one of his classmates makes the statement that Michael needs some Jordans. When the drug-dealing classmate gives Michael a pair of shoes, they are ProKeds. ProKeds are not basketball shoes in any way, shape, or form. Also, it is (now) illegal for a basketball player to go professional directly from high school.

The outtakes that are shown as the credits roll are better and funnier than the two-hour movie. They include favorite songs and statements from "Meet the Browns" the play. This is the first time Angela Basset and Jennifer Lewis have starred together since "What's Love Got to Do With It?" and a memorable line is mentioned during the outtakes.

Though "Meet the Browns" is titled after the play, the movie contains most of the plot from the most recent stage play, "What's Done in the Dark…" It would have been nice to see a larger variation in the storylines. At times it seemed like Tyler Perry copied and pasted scenes from his plays into the movie and this wasn't a good practice because his audience is the same and we like to see growth, not a plateau.



"Meet the Browns" is the first drama by Tyler Perry, and he does a good job with it. I recommend "Meet the Browns" to those who like Tyler Perry's previous works.

Movie review: "Never Back Down" serves up satisfactory action but a paltry story line

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

With a young Tom Cruise look-alike, Sean Faris and Djimon Honsou, "Never Back Down" is a good movie reminiscent of "The Karate Kid."

Sean Faris plays Jake Tyler, a high school student holding onto guilt and a grudge. When his family moves to Florida, his mother, Margot, played by Leslie Hope, wants him to turn over a new leaf and stop getting into fights.

After interfering in what he thinks is a fight, Jake is Googled by Max Cooperman, played by Evan Peters. Jake Tyler becomes very popular as more and more people watch a video of him fighting on YouTube. His popularity sparks jealousy from Ryan McCarthy, a known martial arts champion, played by Cam Gigandet.

This jealousy escalates into a fight with Jake getting the short end of the stick. Max introduces Jake to Jean Roquoa, played by Djimon Honsou. Roquoa teaches Jake the fundamentals of mixed martial arts. There is no "wax on, wax off" but the "punch, punch, punch, kick" combination is memorable.

NEVER BACK DOWN
MARCH 14TH
www.NeverBackDownTheMovie.com

Though "Never Back Down" is a good movie, it serves as a two-hour commercial for the iPhone. "Never Back Down" is like a 2008 version of "The Karate Kid," but "The Karate Kid" surpasses it with believability and the lack of shameless plugs.

Neither Jake's friendship with Max nor his relationship with Baja Miller, played by Amber Heard, was explained enough to bring the audience into the storyline. There were unanswered questions, misleading innuendoes, and as the movie progressed it seemed rushed.

"Never Back Down" was a good movie that I recommend to those who want to see some hand-to-hand combat.

DVD review: "I Am Legend" two-disc edition offers an alternate ending worth looking into

Todd Johnson
A&E Editor

Sometimes our schedule keeps me from reviewing a movie for the Conglomerate that I really enjoyed during its initial theatrical run. However, with DVD, I am given a second chance to tell you about the movie and why you should see it if you get the chance. With that said, I guess I should tell you about a little apocalyptic thriller called "I Am Legend".

"I Am Legend" is about Robert Neville (Will Smith), a military scientist who is the last survivor of a virus that killed 90% of the Earth's population and turned the remaining 10% into mutant cannibals. Neville, for some reason that is never explained, is immune to the virus, so he tries to find a cure for it while fighting off the mutants and scavenging for food and supplies in a completely dead New York City.

The first hour of the movie is a near perfect example of an apocalyptic thriller. It is tight, intense, and engaging. We learn about Neville's daily life of scavenging, hunting, and searching for a vaccine for the virus. After the first hour, though, the movie turns into a pure action movie. While this is not bad, it makes the film seem rushed.

Will Smith gives a fantastic performance as Neville. He conveys the loneliness and craziness that being the last man on Earth would cause. Add to the fact that he is constantly in fear for his life and you have a character that is always on the breaking point. Smith's performance shows this very clearly and proves that he is more than just a typical action movie star.

The other star of this movie is the special effects. However, the only times the special effects really shine happen when we see the abandoned city with weeds growing through the sidewalks, cars stuck in the streets, old posters still hanging in the buildings, the sense of decay covering the city. The special effects decrease significantly when we see the mutants. They are completely and very obviously CGI, which makes it difficult to realize that they were once human.

With the exception of the CGI mutants and the tone shift in the last 30 minutes, the movie is a very solid and entertaining sci-fi thriller.

The two-disc DVD has the theatrical cut of the film on the first disc along with some interactive comics and some web-based features that can only be accessed online (meaning you'll need to put the DVD in your computer to see the featurettes). The featurettes are your standard DVD behind-the-scenes extras.

The real selling point behind the two-disc version, however, is the alternate cut of the movie, which contains two added scenes and an alternate ending, which is completely different from the original ending.

In comparing the two, I preferred the alternate ending to the theatrical ending. It fit with the film better and did not use the cheap religious analogies that occurred at the end of the theatrical. Plus, it is also closer to the ideas of the original novel, which is always a plus for me.

Overall, it is worth your time to catch "I Am Legend". Especially check out the new cut of the film because the alternate ending makes the film far better than the theatrical cut.

Game review: New "Super Smash Bros." game lives up to the hype

Todd Johnson
A&E Editor

One of the most anticipated games of this current generation has finally hit Wii consoles everywhere, but does "Super Smash Bros. Brawl" live up to the hype that it has been given? I think so.

Like the two previous "Smash Bros." games before it, "Brawl" is a multiplayer fighting game in which you take the most well-known Nintendo characters, like Mario, Link, Donkey Kong, and my personal favorite Kirby and battle it out to find out which characters are the strongest.

First, the single player mode contains the classic mode, which is made up of several fights mixed in with the occasional mini-game (usually breaking the targets) with the final boss fight against Master Hand. This part of the game is very straightforward and simple.

However, there is another section to the single player mode called "The Subspace Emissary", which is a story mode that manages to mix the battles the game is known for with a very strange story told only with visuals and no dialogue. In this story mode, you start off with either Kirby or Mario as you fight against this strange battleship that is turning all the Nintendo characters into statues. "The Subspace Emissary" takes at least eight hours to beat (and that is without finding all the items or characters).

There are also the mini-games which will hone your skills as a fighter. These include the typical hit-the-target missions to homerun derbies.

The real meat of the game, however, resides in the multiplayer versus mode. This mode takes the 30+ characters and lets you battle it out with your friends. I can guarantee that you will spend several hours playing as the different characters and beating (or getting beat by) your friends.

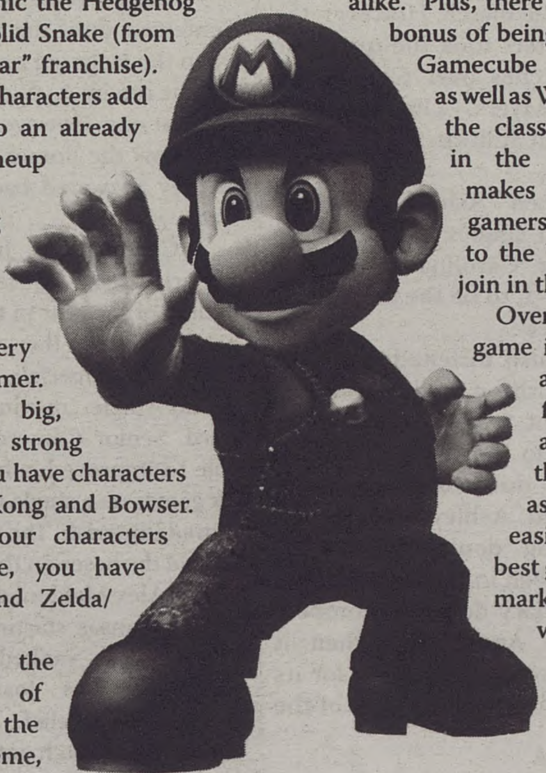
To make the battles more interesting, there are the items, which have many different side-effects (like healing you or blowing you off the screen). My personal favorites are the pokeballs, which will release a pokemon who will then aid you in the battle.

However, the biggest new additions to this game are the characters of Sonic the Hedgehog (from the "Sonic the Hedgehog" games) and Solid Snake (from the "Metal Gear" franchise). Both of these characters add more depth to an already impressive lineup of characters.

Speaking of the characters, there is a fighter for every type of gamer. If you like big, slow, but very strong characters, you have characters like Donkey Kong and Bowser. If you like your characters fast and agile, you have Metaknight and Zelda/Sheik.

One of the best features of this game is the control scheme, which consists of the joystick and three buttons. The simplicity of the controls and surprising depth of the combinations makes the game great for hardcore and casual gamers alike. Plus, there is the added bonus of being able to use Gamecube controllers, as well as WiiMotes and the classic controller in the game. This makes is easier for gamers not adjusted to the WiiMotes to join in the fun.

Overall, this game is a fantastic and addictive fighter. There are few games that are as fun as this one. It is easily one of the best games on the market and easily worth the $50 price tag.



SPORTS

Louisiana Tech pulls out win over Ladies

Jennifer Majchrowicz of the Tennis team. Photo courtesy of GoCentenary.com.

(Centenary Sports Information; GoCentenary.com)

SHREVEPORT—The Centenary women's tennis team dropped a close 4-3 match to rival Louisiana Tech on Tuesday evening in Shreveport. The back-and-forth match was decided on a 9-7 doubles victory for the Lady Techsters.

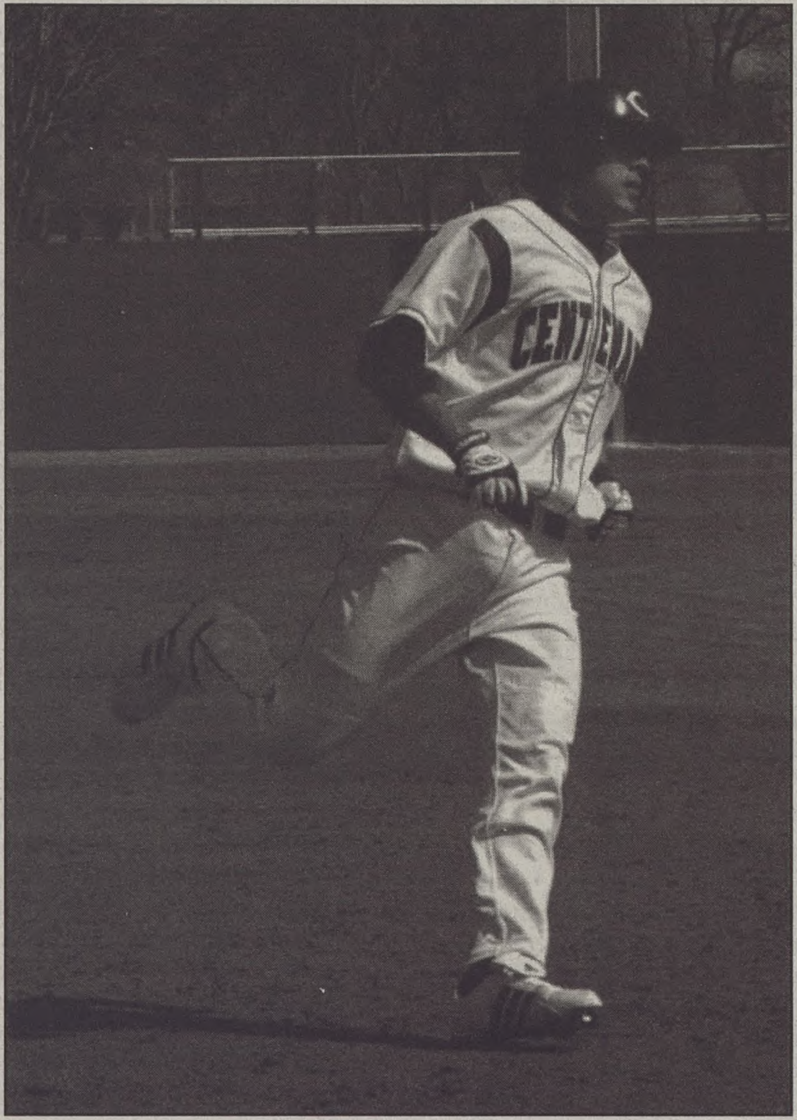
Louisiana Tech conceded the fifth and sixth singles spots to Centenary as it traveled just four players to the match. However, the Lady Techsters took the top three singles matches over Centenary's Courtney Myers, Lindsay Ezell, and Kayleigh Sullivan to earn three points back.

Gretchen Ashley won her fourth flight singles match for the Ladies over Carolina Pachon of Tech, 6-4, 6-1, to tie the team score at three apiece.

Tech also forfeited the third doubles position, but won the second flight 8-3. In a very close match, Rocio Juarez and Adriana Makowska downed Centenary's Sullivan and Ashley 9-7 to win the deciding doubles point for Louisiana Tech in No.1 doubles.

Centenary does not compete again until April 18th when it travels to Fort Wayne, Ind., for its final Summit League cluster of the season.

Big sixth inning earns Gents win over Razorbacks



Senior Teddy Saenz in a game against Arkansas State. Photo courtesy of GoCentenary.com.

(Centenary Sports Information; GoCentenary.com)

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. – 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it,' is the old adage, and for Centenary small ball isn't worth fixing. The Gents scored one in the first without getting a hit, in route to their, 5-1, win over Arkansas on Wednesday afternoon at Baum Stadium. The win over the Razorbacks, was Centenary's first victory over a SEC opponent since the 6-1 win over LSU back in 2005.

Junior Jomar Tabor got the game started by drawing a walk and was to move all the way to third on an error by the pitcher, who was trying pick-off the speedster. Junior Steele Lewis, who was third up in the lineup grounded out to short, which was enough the score the Kalamazoo, Mich., native.

Things remained in favor of Centenary until the fifth, and that's when the Hogs got on the board with a home run by Andrew Darr to tie the game at one. However, the Gents did not allow the homer to affect them, as they answered back three in the sixth.

Centenary junior Ricky Imperiali got his team-high sixth double of the year in the sixth, which helped spark the Gents offense. Following Imperiali, Lewis had an infield single, moving Imperiali to third. Senior Cameron Penney was able to improve his hitting streak to six games on a single to center, which scored Imperiali. The Gents were able to load the bases on the next batter, as senior Alex Maldonado walked.

Arkansas starting pitcher Sam Murphy was yanked after walking Maldonado to load the bases. Razorbacks' relief pitcher Brett Eibner's first pitch got away from the catcher, bringing in Lewis, which was the second run of the inning.

Senior Teddy Sanez, who was the batter on the wild pitch, picked-up one of his two RBIs on the afternoon on sacrifice fly to right field, scoring Penney for the final run of the inning.

The Gents were able to score once more in the contest, as Sanez singled to right in the eighth, which brought home Penney, after he got himself on base with a single to center.

The Centenary pitching staff had a marvelous game, as sophomore Dakota Robinson started the game, going four innings, scattering two hits and striking out two. Freshman Justin Kraft earned his team leading fifth win of the year, after pitching three innings in relief, while classmate Boone Whiting pitched the final two innings and did not allow a hit.

"We just pitched lights out today," said head coach Ed McCann. "Our three guys were on a pitch count, but to them it didn't matter. They went out there and showed Arkansas that Tuesday didn't affect us."

The Gents will be back home on Saturday for a twinbill against Grambling State, starting at 1 p.m.

The Conglomerate presents: The life of a student athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

Hey guys, welcome back. These past few weeks have been exciting on the softball diamond to say the least. On the road traveling, visiting new places, and winning games occupied our Easter break.

Last week while up in Kansas City, we were able to take all three games from the Kangaroos. We looked pretty solid all around with dominating pitching, powerful hitting, and great defense.

This time of the year is definitely the most enjoyable as we are deep into conference games and working hard to fight the pressures of school and such a busy traveling schedule.

We played all week, three games at UMKC and three games at home against Oakland without one of our teammates. Sophomore Brittany Williams traveled home to Tennessee to have surgery. She is finally back in town recovering from an intensive week of operations. We are glad she made it through successfully and can be with us through our wins.

After the UMKC series, we loaded the bus around 2 p.m. and headed back to Shreveport. We arrived back into town close to 2 a.m., but luckily we didn't have to worry about waking up for classes or morning weights. On Thursday, we had a pretty relaxed day with a water workout and a light hitting practice to prepare for our home series against Oakland.

Going into the weekend against Oakland meant a lot to our team. We were battling fatigue, though in the end, we knew we had to get the job done and take three wins from the Grizzlies. Last season was an upset for us as they swept us at their place, so the need for a great weekend was sought.

Friday came, no classes, just softball. We were able to focus only on winning and it paid off. We were able to take both games on Friday, 3-0 and 5-0, led by pitchers Ryan Thacker, Lauren Highsmith, and Stacy Whitmer, who combined for two shutouts.

Those two games meant so much as we improved to 17-2 over the last 19 games and a perfect 9-0 at home. We had several key players step up over the course of the day providing consistent offense. Freshman Bonnie Matak and sophomores Allison Shepperd and Haley Bassett each had productive days at the plate.

Taking both games on Friday, we were sitting confident heading into Saturday's final game. Our team is excited overall about where we are and how we are playing, and with that, we are not going to let anyone take a game away from us.

So, with that said, Saturday's game opened to our advantage when senior Lauren Flowers connected on her team-leading fourth homer of the season over the center field fence to put us ahead 2-0. We battled Oakland's starting pitcher for a few more innings, finally breaking through with four more runs due to a Grizzly error.

Again, pitching was flawless. Ryan collected her seventh straight win and fourth shutout in six conference starts. She pitched 5.1 innings, giving up just two hits and striking out nine Oakland batters. Lauren was able to come in and close the door on the Grizzly hitters, pitching a scoreless seventh inning while striking out one.

With our 11th straight win, our 9-0 conference record, and our improvement to our overall record making it now 20-15—Coach Montgomery granted us two days off for Easter.

Now, as cars begin to fill the parking lots on campus after break, we continue to play softball. This week, we host Southeastern Louisiana on Wednesday at 6 p.m. and travel to play the University of Louisiana-Monroe on Thursday at 6 p.m. as well.

Come out and see us build on a great winning streak. Can we make it 12 straight? You bet. Go Ladies!

Flaska and Centenary part ways after 3 seasons

(Centenary Sports Information; GoCentenary.com)

SHREVEPORT—Centenary Director of Athletics Dr. Tom Tallach today announced that Rob Flaska's contract would not be renewed as head men's basketball coach. A search for Flaska's successor will begin immediately.

"Over his three years, Rob was able to make some progress under some difficult circumstances. For that we are very appreciative," said Tallach. "At this time, we are looking for something different in terms of leadership, and that is the rationale for this very difficult decision."

Flaska recently completed his third year at the helm of the Centenary men's basketball program. He came to lead the Gents after five years of successful assistant coaching stops at both Arkansas and Texas Christian University. His two recruiting classes at Arkansas were ranked in the top five by many major basketball publications.

Flaska tallied a three-year record of 24-65 at Centenary, highlighted by this season's 70-66 victory over Texas Tech. His three-year conference record was 9-39, which included two trips to the conference tournament as the eighth seed. Both times the Gents were eliminated by the top-seeded Oral Roberts Golden Eagles in the opening round.

Centenary players Alexander Starr, Tyrone Hamilton, and Nick Stallings were all named as all-conference selections under Flaska's guidance. Starr was a first team honoree in 2006-07 and Hamilton earned second team honors the same year. This season Hamilton and Stallings were both awarded honorable mention accolades.

"We wish Rob only the very best of luck in his future endeavors," added Tallach.

The position at Centenary was the first as a head coach at the Division I level for Flaska.

Basketball coach, Rob Flaska. Photo courtesy of GoCentenary.com

WORD SEARCH:
COOKIES

W	W	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	Y	P	S	H	R	A	T
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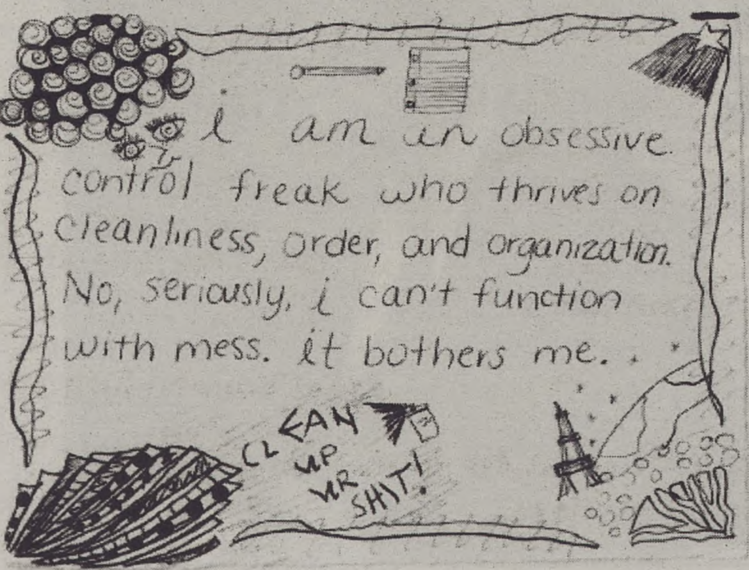
biscotti - lemon square - biscuit -macadamia nut - chocolate chip
oreo - christmas - peanut butter - cookie monster - shortbread
fortune - snickerdoodle - gingerbread men -sugar - girl scout

Centenary Secrets



i am an obsessive control freak who thrives on cleanliness, order, and organization. No, seriously, i can't function with mess. it bothers me. .

CLEAN UP UR SHIT!

In order to participate, take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box 786 or slip it under the Conglomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.

Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/20) You may have been having strange dreams lately, this is a sign that you are going crazy. That or you are trying to quit smoking and that patch is not relieving any of your stress by inspiring horrible nightmares.

Taurus (4/21-5/21) A good thing to have with you at all times is a good thick dictionary. Not to look up words or expand your vocabulary though, no it's to throw at people, but only the deserving ones.

Gemini (5/22- 6/21) Holding grudges may get you nowhere in the long run, but it's the closest thing you will ever have to an arch enemy like Batman and Superman do. Here's a fun tip, the next time you have a fight with someone start calling them Lex Luther or Catwoman.

Cancer (6/22-7/23) Lately, you have noticed that your balance is off. This is because an invisible, but gentle, rhinocerous has been following you around and nudging you. Why does he do it? No one knows.

Leo (7/24-8/23) Try to imagine yourself in five years. Now try to imagine yourself in fifty. Now imagine all the things you could have been doing instead of wasting time by blindly letting a newspaper tell you what to do.

Virgo (8/24-9/23) It is time to evaluate the order of your "To Do Before I Die" list. That's right, switch "Retire and Travel" with "Get into Grad School." Cutting out the middle is like eating the icing in an Oreo before the rest of the cookie. Are you confused? Good, we're right on track.

Libra (9/24) Finding that person to spend the rest of your life with can often be a struggle. But I have a list of movies that will help you find and keep that special someone close to you: "King Kong," "Swim Fan," "Fatal Attraction," and "Misery."

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) If you're so concerned about not being able to stay awake all night working on that paper, then you cannot truly call yourself a college student.

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) Roses are red, violets are blue, your boyfriends cheats, and you don't have a clue.

Capricorn (12/22-1/20) One of the most peculiar experiences you may ever have the pleasure of experiencing is staying up all night in an office with crazy people listening to crazy music, watching crazy YouTube videos and ending the madness by writing random horoscopes.... like this one.

Aquarius (1/21-2/19) The newspaper is such a great tool. And it makes a nifty hat as well.

Pisces (2/20-3/20) You have an overactive imagination and a tendency to do the opposite of what you are told. This often leads to bizarre situations. I would tell you to avoid them but I know you wouldn't listen anyway.

Ups and Downs

↑ **Mexico Mission Trip**
For giving up part of their Spring Break for community service.

↑ **Facilities**
For finally finishing the Shell. It looks pretty.

↓ **Conglomerate Staff**
You had all of break to write articles. Come on, people.

↑ **Softball**
For being number one in the Summit League.

↓ **Facilities**
For not notifying students of interuptions of organizations' scheduled events.

↓ **Programming**
For overlapping big events such as the Ben Folds concert and Opera Workshop.

Centenary Area Concert Wire

Friday, March 28
The Peekers and Romulus Remus will be performing at 7 pm on Friday, March 28th at Jayne Marie on Cross Lake. There will be a drawing for a $50.00 iTunes gift card. For more information, please contact mflentge@gmail.com.

Friday, March 28
Julian Dossett and Junior III will perform at 8:30 pm on Friday, March 28th at Actor's Cafe (formerly Bear's) at 1401 Fairfield Avenue. For more information, contact Susan Garner at impactanalysis@gmail.com.

Friday, March 28
Fallen to Rise, Deadward, Inura, Lastoftheheroes, and Heart4ahand will perform at Harlequin Alley at 8 pm. For more information, please visit www.myspace.com/harlequinalley

Friday, March 28
Reflections Burn, Paris Green, and Firekills will perform at 10 pm at the Warehouse. For more information, please visit www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

Saturday, March 29
KSCL will host Battle of the Bands at 1 OM in the Shell on Centenary Campus. For more info, please email ksclbotb@gmail.com or call Jon Schleuss at (318) 869-5296

Friday, April 4
Ben Folds and Eef Barzelay
Doors open at 7 PM, Show starts 8 PM at Gold Dome on Centenary College campus. Admission is $15 in advance, and $20 at the door.
http://www.centenarytickets.com
http://www.benfolds.com/
http://www.myspace.com/eefbarzelay

Friday, April 4
Adelaide, and Triumphant Return will perform at 7 pm on Friday, April 4th at Harlequin Alley. For more information, please visit www.myspace.com/harelequinalley

Saturday, April 5
66ShooterBeltBuckle (formerly DriveThruEtiquette) and Our City Burns will perform at 7 pm on Saturday, April 5th at Harlequin Alley. For more information, please visit www.myspace.com/harlequinalley

Saturday, April 5
She Craves, 6 Pack Deep, and Sunset Veil will perform at 10 pm on Saturday, April 5th at the Warehouse. For more information, please visit www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

Friday, April 11
Afflicted will perform at 7 pm on Friday, April 11th at Harlequin Alley. For more information, please visit www.myspace.com/harlequinalley

Friday, April 11
Musicians for Suicide Solution, Kringe, Grid, and Stone Crop will perform at 10 pm on Friday, April 11th at the Warehouse. For more information, please visit www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

Diversity Week

Sunday, March 30
Around the World
6:30pm
James Lobby
sponsored by
RHA

Monday, March 31
Pitch Black
TBA
sponsored by
Hardin/Rotary HC

Movie: Crash
8pm
Cline Fishbowl
sponsored by
Cline RA's

Invisible Children
TBA
sponsored by
James

Tuesday, April 1
Holi
3:30-6pm
Jones-Rice
sponsored by
ISCA

Wednesday, April 2
Hunger Banquet
5pm
SUB
sponsored by
Amnesty

Thursday, April 3
Forum
5pm
SUB
sponsored by
Div. Committee

Meet Your Neighbors
7pm
Sexton Lobby
sponsored by
Sexton HC

Free T-shirts will be available to students at all of these events.

Strange but true news: an operation gone very wrong, a missing ring, and greeting cards for convicts

Kat Michiels
Staff Writer

In Bavaria, a woman went to the hospital to have a leg operation. When she woke up, she realized she had a new anus instead. Apparently, another patient who was suffering from some type of incontinence problem was scheduled to have surgery on her sphincter. The clinic confused the patients, the surgeries, and the body parts, and the lady still needs her leg operation. The clinic has suspended the surgical team, but the lady is still planning to sue the hospital.

But how exactly did this lady know that she had a new anus? Obviously, the hospital screwed up, but at the most the lady should have just been complaining that her bum was a little sore. And what of the lady who needed the sphincter surgery? When the doctors looked at her leg, didn't they realize that it didn't need to be operated on? Fishy, fishy, this Bavarian hospital.

In London, a man decided he would "pop" the question as his girlfriend "popped" a balloon. Lefkos Hajji put a $12,000 engagement ring inside a helium balloon and left the shop with a bundle of balloons, all set for the big surprise. But just as he left the shop, a gust of wind carried the balloons and the ring far, far away. Hajji chased the balloon as far as he could, but eventually lost it. To top everything off, Hajji's girlfriend is refusing to speak to him until he gets a new ring. Poor Hajji. And why is his girlfriend being so mean to him? I hope that she gets the ring and then drops it down the toilet by accident. Then Hajji can find someone better.

If anyone ever decides to propose to me with a ring inside a balloon, that damn thing better be filled with plain old air.

After 21 years, a message in a bottle washed up on a shore in Alaska. In 1987, fourth grader Emily Hwaung and the rest of her class mailed off a message in a bottle. The letter, which was typewritten, instructed whoever found it to send a letter detailing the date and location the bottle was found. The bottle was sent all those years ago from Seattle, and Merle Brandell discovered it as he was walking along the Bering Sea with his dog. Twenty-one years later, however, times have changed. Emily, who doesn't remember doing the project, says that she can't believe that they dropped plastic bottles in the ocean those years ago because of the environmental issue.

In Los Angeles, an attorney noticed that greeting card companies, who dominate the birthday, anniversary, and holiday sectors, were ignoring a huge population of people: prisoners. Terry Cheathem (a lawyer named Cheathem!) has founded Three Squares Greetings, which publishes cards designed specifically for inmates. Some of them are religious, some provide moral support, and some are slightly humorous, such as the Christmas card that read, "You had the choice to be naughty or nice. You chose…Oh well, now you have to do your time." Their website, threesquaresgreetings.com, allows customers to order cards directly for about $4 each. There are birthday cards, tough love cards, New Year's Resolution cards, and thinking of you cards. However, the greeting card line misses an entire line of humor that could result from prison cards! There are no "soap on a rope" cards, no "Shawshank Redemption" cards, no Martha Stewart cards, no "Dead Man Walking" cards. These are categories that should be explored by any authentic prison greeting card company.

Centenary's 17th Annual Student Research Forum

The end of the spring semester is within sight, and we wanted to remind you of our 17th Annual Student Research Forum. We take great pride in our students' research here at Centenary, and we look forward to the time that we have set aside for them to present that research to the whole College community. The presentations of the 17th Annual Forum are scheduled for Friday, April 25th, 2008, which is a little less than 3 months from now.

Awards and cash prizes will be given to the winners of the oral presentations and the poster presentations. We will provide more details later, but we hope that all of you will participate in this upcoming forum. We hope that student-researchers will share their work with the rest of us, and we hope as well that their colleagues and classmates will join the faculty in celebrating that work.

We wish all of you students well on your research and on your posters or oral presentations.

If you have any questions about this upcoming 17th annual research forum, please contact the director, Matt Weeks, whose email address is: rmweeks@centenary.edu, or office phone: 841-7268.

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Sudoku

The CONFLOMORATE

April 1, 2008 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 23

Centenary takes action to attain diversity on campus

Kari Patterson
Staff Writer

Today marks the end of Diversity Week, that week when we all take time out of our schedules here at Centenary to come together in all our different shades of middle-class whiteness and celebrate the diversity we wish we had. From our lack of minority professors to our poor minority student retention rate, many Centenary students have expressed concerns over the school's true dedication to diversity here on campus. Happily, in the spirit of Diversity Week, the administration has unveiled its latest plan to help improve diversity on campus - passing the buck.

Since the administration has had little success in their attempts to increase diversity on campus through having an outside person tell us exactly how homogeneous we are during the Diversity Climate Assessment last year and a series of commercials and advertisements showcasing a wide range of the same few minority students, they have decided to pass on the burden of increasing diversity here at Centenary to the people they feel will have the best chance of actually making it work - the students.

The administration believes that we students can actually improve Centenary's diversity far better than

continued on page 3

Attaway Fellows: Politics and Prostitution in America

Senator David Vitter helps a...er...voter....strap up her hooker shoes. That's what we call a dedicated politician.
Image created by Courtney Delaney

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

In the wake of several scandals that have captured the attention (and imagination) of the American people, Centenary College has announced the next lecture series to be presented by Attaway fellows: "Politics and Prostitution in America."

The two seem to be inextricably linked in the lives of many politicians, and in order to give students a better understanding of the connection, the series will feature special guest speakers Eliot Spitzer and David Vitter.

Spitzer resigned as Governor of New York after news of his liaisons with prostitutes surfaced. Louisiana Senator David Vitter, who was linked with prostitution services run by the D.C. Madam, is still in office and actively promoting Republican ideals such as the military's right to recruit anywhere, especially where liberal hippies like those in Berkeley, California don't want them.

While Spitzer and Vitter will speak on how to handle scandal (including how to have your wife stand beside you during a speech of shame and ways not to lose your office), the other side of the sticky coin will be represented by those employed in the business themselves.

Deborah Palfrey, better known as the D.C. Madam, will speak on the intricacies of successfully running prostitution services and ensnaring senators from Southern states. Ashley Alexandra Dupré, better known as Kristen the call girl (involved with Spitzer), plans to give a lecture entitled, "How to remove yourself so much from political knowledge that you don't recognize

continued on page 3

INSIDE

STD outbreak on campus, read more on page 9

SGA reveals new budget allocations on page 12

Ben Folds cancels concert, who will be performing instead? Find out on page 14

Real news...no, really: pages 18-21

Random quotes from crazy, sleep-deprived Congo staffers

Fatty Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Disclaimer: Yes, this is the same as last year, where the following quotes are taken from Sunday night meeting and Wednesday night layout sessions. Some of them are too complicated or old to have real attributes; others beg credit.

"That means she was sitting there without pants for two years." - Courtney Delaney

"Kinda hot." – Jon Schleuss

"I don't want to have one – it'll ruin my breasts." – Rhagen Russell on babies

"Rhagen's snot is made of Febreze."

"I pee! I have good aim!" – a very defensive Michael Jarboe

"Don't let your lips fall on any random guys!"

"I thought she was going to say random body parts."

"I'm doing laundry." – Chris Christ, after walking into the office in his bathrobe

"The French stink of onions. It's a stereotype."

"I've never heard of that stereotype."

"It can't be as bad as Spain. I just stepped off the plane there and the funk hit you!"

"That doesn't even make sense."

"I want to minor in pole-dancing!"

"I want to put that on a transcript."

"What's wrong with vegetarian pizza?"

"It's vegetarian. I just don't think olives should go on a pizza."

"I like a lot of meat." (a few minutes later) "On pizza."

"She's more lesbian than straight."

"It's a continuum!"

"We can't put the leaking penis on the front page!"

"I just want to undo your buttons sometimes. I don't want to see you naked, I just want to undo them." – Courtney to Sara Carpenter

"This time, it's not about length! Ha ha! Ha! Ha!"

"There's a whitey and a brownie and a camera in here…and a third party to take photos."

And a few gems from our October trip to Washington, D.C. for a national conference (I believe we never printed this, if I am mistaken, sorry for the redundancy!):

"My heart just dropped into my vagina." - Rhagen

"You wanna know a secret? I can tap dance!" - Rhagen

"If I had a penis, I would put it in a jar of peanut butter." -me

"Testicle grease comes from the wings of angels." -Courtney

"She smelled like nasty dumpster tuna. Chicken of the dumpster." - Rhagen

Finally, I leave you with the longstanding but never-asked suggestion for question of the week, a permanent fixture on the Congo's dry erase board since early 2007, as food for thought: "Does Bill Cosby molest people?" (Rhagen thinks yes.)

Question of the Week

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOUR DAD WAS THE SIZE OF YOUR FACE?

"Make him my toothbrush holder."
-Peyton Davis,
Freshman

"Carry him around in a match box."
-Jennifer Martin,
Senior

"Use him as one of my Heroscape figures."
-Kyle McGimsey,
Junior

"Slap him."
-Meg Shanks,
Freshman

"Carry him in my purse."
-Misty Lane,
Freshman

"Keep him in a doll-house."
-John Hogan,
Junior

FEATURES

Politics and Prostitution in America, continued from front page

you're sleeping with the governor until several assignations in, and also how to milk your infamy for all it's worth by releasing a single." ("Move Ya Body" set records for how many downloads it had on AmieStreet.com, while "What We Want" has been played more than 3 million times on the web, according to Bloomberg.com.)

The definition of Attaway fellows, found on the Centenary website, includes these criteria: "The College reserves the title 'Attaway Fellow in Civic Culture' for those Attaway recipients who (1) are public intellectuals...; (2) have a national reputation in their field(s)." It's clear just by looking at these first two qualifications that the likes of Spitzer, Vitter, Palfrey, and Dupré are undeniably competent for these professorships.

Some have criticized the choice of bringing in these (now) high-profile women through the accusation that their lives and role in the media have glamorized the oldest profession in the world. The College issued a statement in response to this, saying only, "We want more than 10% of students to attend these events. This might be the only way."

In researching which politicians would be most suitable for this Attaway professorship, a shocking U.S. News and World Report compilation revealed that the late Louisiana Representative Joe D. Waggonner was arrested in a Washington, D.C. prostitution sting in 1976. Upon hearing this news, students lamented that the information was not discovered sooner and thus not part of a Waggonner protest held earlier this year. (Note: this arrest is actually true. Google U.S. News and World Report's "A Timeline of Politicians and Prostitutes.")

A one-day companion seminar, titled "Infidelity Without Prostitutes – Not So Bad?" will be led by current New York Governor David Paterson, former New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevey, former Representative Mark Foley, and Senator Larry Craig. Bill Clinton is currently too busy making up his infidelity to wifey Hillary by refusing to leave the campaign trail.

Centenary takes action to attain diversity on campus, continued from front page

they can, and are encouraging us to try and do so by bringing a varied group of students to campus. Literally. The administration is requesting that any Centenary student who travels bring back a minority student of some kind with them, whether it's to another country for study abroad or module, in the U.S. for a vacation, or even home over break. Eventually, this might become part of the intercultural experience requirement, particularly for study abroad and international module students, but the administration is willing to leave it as a voluntary measure for the time being.

The College has also decided that it's not going to be overly discriminating in exactly how you get these new students to Shreveport. For instance, Centenary is prepared to request that you stick them in your suitcase and/or lie to immigration officials to get them into the country. Also, a provision that would allow for you to be reimbursed if you have to marry or adopt the prospective student to get them here is being debated among the powers that be, but as of press time it appeared that the measure would be approved.

Professors are also encouraged to attempt to coerce their minority colleagues from elsewhere to come to Centenary, through threats of retaliation against their families if necessary. See just how committed to improving Centenary's diversity the school is? It's refreshing to know that, if students and faculty take up these measures, we'll have a campus overflowing with a diverse faculty and student body in no time! Of course, the administration wants to define diversity as broadly as possible, so when you're trying to decide whether you should smuggle back the Chinese woman you met on module, the Hispanic man you met on the last CLC mission trip, or your transgendered neighbor, remember - Centenary welcomes any and all of them, so bring whoever you can, even if they take up your entire luggage set. Hey, as long as they're enrolled, they make the school's numbers look a whole lot better, right? Or, if necessary, they can just be used for the next round of advertising before INS shows up.

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The Conglomerate is an independent student publication, and does not reflect the opinions of Centenary College of Louisiana. If this April Fool's issue offends you, please feel free to complain, but we might make fun of you for not having a sense of humor.

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College proposes new ways of fundraising

Kari "You Bring the Handcuffs" Patterson
Staff Writer

Between decreased enrollment, payments for lawsuit settlements, and an increased fake boulder budget, it seems like Centenary has been unable to pull in enough money to keep the school running. However, to make up for this dearth of money, the administration has asked for fundraising proposals to be considered at the next Board of Trustees meeting. Although many proposals were submitted, the administration is choosing to present only the best three submissions, as judged by a committee that included several students on how lucrative they appear and ease of implementation.

The first proposal came from Residence Life, and includes making use of the Residence Halls' existing potential to provide various services to the community and raise money at the same time. Senior NRHH (National Residence Hall Honorary) member Bekah Metcalf said of the proposal, "I think it's a good one because there's no consistent source of income for the Res Halls, so this is a good opportunity to allow for some improvements."

Metcalf also praised the proposal for playing to each Res Hall's particular strengths. "I mean, with all of Rotary's outdoor balconies, of course it's the ideal place for growing pot!"

Besides manufacturing marijuana in Rotary, the proposal also calls for the conversion of Cline into a crack den, James into a bar/club, and Hardin and Sexton into brothels. Metcalf, one of the proposal's sponsors, estimated that these measures could bring in approximately $3 million a year, "barring federal intervention."

The second proposal, which was submitted by DPS, was favored by the administration because it involved little to no overhead costs, and because the community has already demonstrated its willingness to support the endeavor. In this proposal, Director of Public Safety Zeke Aull explained, "DPS would use the parking lot behind James to periodically auction off items of interest to the public."

In the week prior to each auction, community members would be invited to indicate what items they would like to purchase, and at the end of the week DPS would break into the appropriate students' cars and retrieve them. "Since most of the cars in the lots behind James get broken into anyways, we figured that by directly selling the items that were going to be stolen anyway, at least this way we can make some money off of it," Aull said. "And the students can know that their stolen items are helping to support the school!" With an auction approximately every other week, Aull projected that DPS can contribute $5,000-$10,000 to the general fund.

The final proposal that the administration felt was noteworthy enough to forward to the Board of Trustees came from a small group of faculty and staff members. Headed by Dr. Kim Vanhoosier-Carey and Dr. Chirhart, the committee is proposing the utilization of some unused space in the library and Mickle for more lucrative endeavors.

"Since the Choir no longer uses the 'attic' (fourth floor) of Mickle, we figured that it could be converted to better serve the college," explained Chirhart. "The same goes for the unused 'third floor' of the Library," added Vanhoosier-Carey, "and since they're already doing construction upstairs, this would be the perfect time to move all of the necessary machinery up there!"

The faculty proposal would provide for the establishment of a human trafficking station in Mickle and a child labor sweatshop in the Library. Besides the obvious monetary benefits of human trafficking, the children of those being smuggled through Centenary will be "ferried through the tunnel to Magale, where they will be able to bring more revenue to the College" by manufacturing Centenary gear, knock-off Louis Vuitton bags, and plastic rocks for use around campus, explained Chirhart. "That way, they can doubly contribute to Centenary before they're sent on to work for South American drug lords," added Vanhoosier-Carey. "It's a win-win for us."

The faculty's proposal estimated that it will be able to raise in excess of $1 million per semester. "It will more than make up for the money we'll lose from the Methodist Church when they find out about it, and we can even make a handsome profit – enough to build that new science building!" Chirhart added.

The Board of Trustees is scheduled to vote on these measures next month, and is considering timetables to implement some or all of these proposals by next spring.

I am a box. I usually place myself where there are not enough pictures or articles to fill space. Sometimes I disguise myself as an intentional and informative object, but really, I'm just filler.

Ode to a hero: Centenary honors Soda Guy with statue and seminars

Aleksandra Kastzalska
Staff Writer
(writing from Lille, France! amazing)

What do you think of when you hear the words "Centenary College"? Which image or logo comes to your mind first? The bell tower? President Schwab? Jack London? That mysterious room in the women's bathroom in the library?

All of the above surely would have been the top answers just a couple of years ago... but not anymore.

Last year, something happened – something that changed us forever. Something, or rather someONE, who you can't possibly have forgotten, and whom the Centenary community is finally ready to honor.

Yes, that's right. You know who I'm talking about.

The Soda Guy.

In the history of our school, few individuals have left as lasting an impact as did the Soda Guy, and few have been as overlooked.

Unless you're a freshman who has been living under a rock this entire year, you've been acutely aware of this phenomenon. You have heard people talk about the Soda Guy almost nonstop, you have seen the now legendary film footage, and maybe you have even taken one of the Soda Guy Studies classes ("Eye-opening!" says junior Michelle Holt) offered since last fall.

That is why I'm sure you'll understand my skipping the redundant introductions.

However, if, for some crazy reason, you still have no clue what this imposing and enigmatic name stands for – it's time to do your homework.

After all, you can't really call yourself a Gent or a Lady (or even a Catahoula) if you're unaware of what some consider to be the single most important man and event in our college's history – even more important than DPS buying those huge plastic boulders.

(Editor's note: For those who don't know, DPS captured a man on video stealing several drinks and a purse from Randle's last spring, and released the very important footage of this crime via global email to the Centenary community, where everyone could see the video file name was "Soda Guy.")

Whether the Soda Guy's legacy is more positive or more negative remains a highly debatable subject that never ceases to stir heated discussions among Centenary's most prominent minds.

If you still haven't grasped the gravity of this issue, let me just mention that Dr. Henderson has so far come up with over 50 nerdy puns related to the Soda Guy.

But no matter which side of the argument you're on, you can't refute the fact that the Soda Guy's spirit lives on, and you will undoubtedly applaud the administration's (much delayed) efforts to commemorate the man who has changed the face of our campus forever.

Sopleasejointheadministration, staff and other students outside of the SUB this coming Tuesday, as President Schwab kicks off the first annual Soda Guy Week by unveiling a new statue. The exact location of the bronze sculpture – right next to the Randle's back entrance – is said to have been been an obvious and uncontested choice from the very conception of the idea.

You are also welcome to attend the series of seminars and lectures dedicated to the Soda Guy, which will take place throughout the week.

The official wrapping up of the celebrations will take place in the Whited Room on Friday, when our own Dr. Wolkomir will be signing her new book, "Misconceived: The Social Struggles of Peskitarian and Ex-Peskitarian Soda Guys."

Lastly, make sure to check out the newest addition to the weekly Congo columns: Soda Guy Secrets!

Randle's staff takes on Kitchen Stadium for "Iron Chef America"

Iron Chef Schreiber
Features Editor

Anybody who frequents Randle's or the cafeteria may notice several familiar faces missing next week, when a small team of Sodexho workers will depart for Los Angeles to compete on "Iron Chef America." This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is the result of a Food Network contest designed specifically for school food services, which drew in hundreds of applications from grade schools and colleges alike, all hoping for their 15 minutes of fame... or, more likely, for the huge cash prize.

Food Network spokesman Lily Sutherland said that Centenary's application was "too compelling to pass up. The school is constantly holding forums to deal with students' complaints about the food, and it has held a spot on the Princeton Review's 'Is it food?' Top 20 List for the past few years. If the food services have really improved as much as they say, this could be their chance to redeem themselves once and for all!"

The Centenary administration wholeheartedly supports Sodexho's participation, undoubtedly due to the prospect of publicity, a cash prize, and an end to student complaints. While some students are excited to see their favorite staff members on television, others worry that future student input will be ignored should Centenary reign supreme in this publicity stunt.

As one Polish junior vegetarian who would like to remain anonymous commented, "Griping about the caf food is the highlight of my day, but I can't even do that if I know that the staff will say, 'Well, it can't be that bad, because we won Iron Chef.' Come on, what kind of loser even watches that show?"

Of course, Centenary may have won the contest to appear on television, but the real competition is yet to come. The team has chosen Renita Williams as their head chef, but they remain undecided as to which Iron Chef they will challenge. It seems unlikely that they'll crack under the pressure of the show's time limit; after all, anybody who has been in the SUB during lunchtime has seen that the Randle's staff can prepare far more than five dishes in an hour. Unfortunately, it's debatable whether they know how to prepare anything that isn't on the Randle's menu.

Nobody knows what the secret ingredient will be (since it is, after all, a secret), but regardless of what it is, "We'll stick it in a chicken wrap and serve it with a Creamice," said Williams. "Bobby Flay and Mario Batali have nothing on us. I'll just ask those judges, 'Whatchou want?', and they'll get it."

Be sure to support your favorite food service staff by watching this epic battle on April 5 at 9:00 p.m., and cross your fingers that the secret ingredient won't be sea urchin or foie gras.

Ann Coulter named new Assistant Political Science Professor

Amanda Russell-Sturgess-Radcliffe
Staff Writer

According to a recent Centenary news release, über-conservativeattorney-writer-political commentator Ann Coulter was named the new Assistant Professor of Political Science at Centenary College. Although the position, currently held by Dr. Philip Barker until the end of the semester, is generally reserved for someone specializing in comparative politics and international relations, Coulter's resume impressed the basement crew so much that she was hired on the spot.

Coulter is most famous for her television and news appearances. A graduate of Cornell and the University of Michigan Law School, Coulter began her national work with MSNBC in 1996 as a legal correspondent.

Coulter has authored six best-selling books, including How to Talk to a Liberal (If You Must) and If Democrats Had Any Brains, They'd Be Republicans. Coulter's syndicated column for the Universal Press Syndicate also has a loyal conservative following. With credentials such as these, it's no wonder Centenary College jumped at the chance to have Coulter join the faculty.

Coulter visited Centenary several weeks ago to meet with the faculty search committee, department faculty, and students. After teaching a comparative politics class in which she insulted the French as well as Vietnam War veterans, she then joined the students for lunch in the caf. Refusing to eat anything, Coulter proceeded to wear sleeveless shirts and insult anyone who talked her.

"She's a real jewel," said one Political Science major. "I feel like she challenges me to think outside the box and questions everything I've ever learned." A senior Political Science major remarked that he would have stayed at Centenary longer if he had known Coulter would be joining the faculty. Students and faculty alike marveled at how well she fit in with the basement faculty. "It's like she was made for this position," said Department Chair Dr. Rodney Grunes.

Coulter accepted her position at Centenary with a snarl and the condition that she must be paid a minimum of $1.5 million a year. The college has decided to initiate an oil-for-food scandal in order to fund Coulter's professorship. If you see any federal investigators around campus in the next few months, simply smile, keep walking, and say nothing of this.

Coulter promises to be an engaging and energetic member of the faculty. All students should try to register for a new class that she will teach in Fall 2008: PSC 209, The Politics of Being a Huge Bitch.

"We should invade their countries, kill their leaders, and convert them to Christianity."

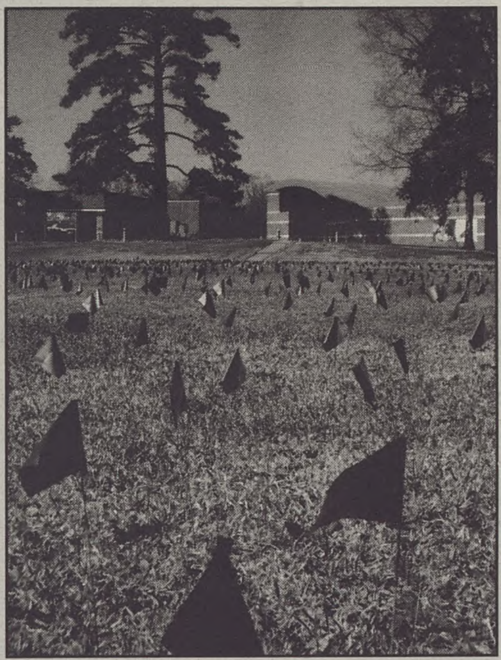
- Ann Coulter
September 13, 2001

600 flags to memorialize fallen squirrels

Sara "Killing Me Softly" Carpenter-Creevy
Staff Writer

On April 5, the Student Association for Squirrel Rights (SASR) will be putting 600 flags up on the cafeteria deck. This demonstration will represent those squirrels on Centenary's campus that have passed from disease or an ill-fated meeting with a car.

The SASR initially wanted this event to just reach the current students of Centenary. President of the club and junior English major Courtney Delaney said, "Centenary students don't really think about how many squirrels we have lost over the semesters we spend here. We wanted to make that number visible."



After carefully thinking it through, the club decided that the flags should be put up during Preview Weekend. Vice President and junior Sociology major Michelle Holt commented, "We feel that students considering Centenary should know what they are getting into. Not to say Centenary is a bad school. The students should just be fully informed. They should get the good, the bad, and the ugly."

The SASR had a hard time deciding what figure they should use to represent the squirrels that have died at Centenary. They eventually decided to count all the squirrels that have died within the last four years. The number came out to be 600. Club member Charlie O'Dell said, "I was really amazed that many squirrels have died in four years. I knew some of them had to meet untimely deaths, but I guess I was idealistic in thinking that only a few squirrels died of natural causes every year."

The display will be up all day on April 5 but will be taken down that night. Delaney said, "We think that it being up for one day will be effective enough, especially with 600 flags in such a small space. We really don't want to disturb Preview Weekend entirely, either. We just want to get our point across—that something needs to be done."

When asked if the club had any ideas about lowering squirrel death rates, Delaney said, "Kari Patterson has been looking into what the administration wants to do. Apparently they want to have a forum educating students on the issue. The SASR is in full support of that and will be working very closely with the administration on it."

Not everyone supports this demonstration. Taxidermy Club President Jill Broussard said, "If the squirrels' lifespan lengthen, a valuable resource will be taken away from us."

The SASR is in need of support of any type. Students are welcome to help put up flags on the morning of the exhibit and are encouraged to continue to pass along ideas about how to save the squirrels. The Taxidermy Club is also planning to put up an exhibit of squirrels later in the month to counter the SASR demonstration.

Redaktor naczelny nie mówi po Polsku

Aleksandra Kastzalska
Staff Writer
(writing from Lille, France! still amazing)

I znowu nadchodzi ten czas, kiedy trzeba napisac jakies glupoty do Conglomerate. Poproszono mnie, zeby wystukac cos po polsku jak w zeszlym roku, tak zeby tradycji stalo sie za dosc...

Carrot Top. To taki artysta amerykanski.

Mary-Sue Rix. To jedna z najfajniejszych osob w naszej szkole.

Chaaaaarlieee. Pamietacie ten filmik?

No dobrze, to jak jest pare znajomych slow, to mozna zaczac zabawe. Powiedzmy, ze teraz wsadze jakies statystyki, w stylu 65% ludzi chodzi do Bed, Bath & Beyond, 20% niech ma cos wspolnego z George's Grill, a pozostale 15% sie nie myje.

Ktos, np. Dr. Psych-you-out Weeks, w dodatku powiedzial: "Czesc mamo, zobacz, pisza o mnie w gazetce szkolnej!!" No tak, zeby tylko to przeczytal Michael Cera.

Na co ja odpowiedzialam: "Nie ma wody na pustyni," a przed nami jeszcze „drogi szmat:

- czyja to jest kara?
- kogo wina?
- ze czolgamy sie juz tyle lat?

Kto nie lubi przeciez BAJMu... Nie wiem, moze Kevin Wagner. A powinny ich puscic czasem z KSCL, zeby sobie cale Shreveport posluchalo. A teraz zmienie temat i opowiem o panu Samuel L. Jackson, ktory ponoc kreci u nas film.

Powiem tyle: jestem z tego z 78% procent zadowolona a z 22% smutna, bo akurat mnie w tym semestrze nie ma, zeby slyszec wszystkie na ten temat plotki.

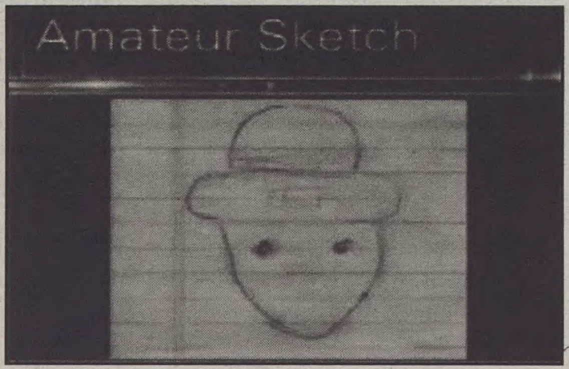
Na szczescie, Stephanie Schreiber i Eli Madrid informuja mnie o wszystkim, co dzieje sie na kampusie podczas mojego wyjazdu. A jak ta pierwsza mi zakonczy e-mail na Gan Gan, Try Get a Chance! to sie zawsze usmieje.

O wlasnie, moze troche pseudo-angielskich wyrazen powsadzam, dla jaj: "He was a skater boy, she said see you later boy," powinna zaspiewac pani Renita z Randle's.

Super, podesle jeszcze pare glupich zdjec, zeby sie ludziom juz w ogole mozgi zlasowaly.

Na zkonczenie, chcialabym pozdrowic Karoline – mam nadzieje, ze czytasz i sie smiejesz ze wszystkich, ktorzy nie maja pojecia o co w tym wszystkim chodzi. Sorry ze nie bylam bardziej kreatywna.

Mobile Alabama Leprechaun: 1, Sodexho: 0.



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New classes include pole-dancing and guerrilla warfare

Chutney, the Coolest Delaney of Them All
Layout Editor

It's that time of year again: departments have announced classes that will be offered in the fall 2008 semester. Amongst the new classes this year, there are a few interesting ones worth looking into.

FYE 103: Campus Navigation - This class will be an optional one-hour lab addition to First Year Experience. In the class, students will learn several skills necessary for surviving Centenary. Class topics will include dodging sprinklers, learning proper treatment of squirrels on campus, and how to manage 15 organizations.

Dance 125: Pole-Dancing - Can be taken for up to 20 hours. Class will be held in the cafeteria. It is described in the catalogue as "concentration on technical proficiency with emphasis on individual creativity." This course will not only look into the history of the age-old art form of pole-dancing but will also demand that the students perform their own research on its psychological and religious impact. First and foremost, though, it's all about the dancing.

Psychology 319: Sexual Offense – Class will explore the mindset of peeping toms, stalkers, and flashers. While this class will be mainly focusing on the psychology of these sexual offenses, there will also be studies on the proper execution of said offenses. This includes how to appear creepy, finding rewarding "peeping" stakeouts, and the proper uniform (trench coat and good running shoes) for exposing oneself to unsuspecting persons, and specialty Photoshopping for "fake" wedding albums and couple photos. Can be taken for CORE credit.

Political Science 345: Guerilla Warfare – Students will be required to separate into teams and make mischief on campus. By the end of the semester, students will need to have learned how to pull off a successful ambush and how to pick out their opponents weaknesses and use them against them.

Business 215: Drug Trafficking- Explores the financial opportunities of drug trafficking. Students will learn the ins and outs of drug rings and how to obtain street cred. Students also will learn how to make the most of their product and the science of "cutting" drugs. Will include a field trip to Colombia. Students may apply for intercultural credit.

When you meet with your advisors for scheduling, jump on the opportunity to take one of these classes. Considering the interesting topics mentioned, spots are sure to go quickly. Also, with Centenary's sporadic class availabilities, who knows when these gems will be offered again.

Centenary bans sex on campus

Southern Elle
Staff Writer

Just yesterday the Centenary administration, via the Committee on Student Sexual Activity, dropped one hell of an announcement: sex is now banned on campus. "The Committee looked at the campus policies of Louisiana Tech and Louisiana College. Both of these campuses do not allow students to have sex. Their enrollment is up, their students have less residence life complaints, and there's no moaning heard in the hallways. It's just a happier, more healthy place – not to mention the lack of STD issues," said President Schwab.

President Schwab said that the Committee had met several times in the 2007-2008 year, though he could not name when or where these meetings took place. The Committee had two student members, five faculty, two staff, and an administration member, though no one was sure exactly who was on the Committee. The meeting minutes are posted online, though the IT department could not find the website.

Molly Manno, the campus nurse, was more than excited about the announcement. "This means my office won't see nearly as many students worried about pregnancy and STDs! That could cut my work load down by half; Health Services might even get out early on Fridays and not open on weekends!" The Health Services office will no longer offer free condoms; the Committee ruled that free condoms could encourage sex. Health Services isn't even allowed to offer referrals for pregnancy tests and STD tests; instead, the nurse can only provide free flyers on the benefits of abstinence.

DPS Chief of Police Zeke Aull was the biggest supporter of the sex ban. Mr. Aull said, "Over half of the calls we get are about kids on this campus having sex in campus buildings. Classrooms, Hurley practice rooms, science labs, you name it. The fraternity parties are nothing compared to the debauchery that students get into on weekday nights in the campus buildings!" Zeke also announced that all campus buildings will stay open 24/7 now; apparently the only reason DPS locked buildings was to keep out roving couples looking to play out their student-teacher fantasies.

Alumni who heard about the ban had mixed responses. Mrs. Georgia Shellheen, a campus donor and prominent alumnus, congratulated President Schwab and Provost Colson on finally trying to make the campus a more moral place for students to grow and learn. Mrs. Shellheen said, "I've been telling Dr. Schwab and Dr. Colson that all this mish-mash on campus is just not appropriate. Students come to Centenary to learn – not to read the smut in some sex column or have access to free contraception. Now if only I could convince the Biology Department to teach creationism…"

Couple Dolores Cochran and Peter Johnson thought this might be a good idea. Though neither one technically graduated from Centenary, they did attend the school for two years before dropping out when Dolores became pregnant during her junior year. "Maybe I would have left with a degree instead of $25,000 in loans and a kid to show for it," Dolores told the Conglomerate. But Peter wasn't so sure the ban would work out. "I think students will have sex whether the college tells them to or not. Since when do students care what the administration says?"

Kevin Wagner, the Director of Residence Life, isn't too concerned about the ban on sex. He said, "I don't really care if students have sex with each other as long as they don't do it in their dorm rooms between 3:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m." But when asked who would administer punishments to students caught having sex, he assured the Conglomerate that his job is to enforce Centenary's rules. "Don't worry. No sexually active student will get past the punishment of the Enforcer. President Schwab even told me he was considering giving me a commission for every student we bust – 10% of the $600 fine. We're also considering forcing students who get caught having sex to sign a permanent dorm contract. The punishment would be to stay on campus all four years, guaranteeing that all sexually active students will stay celibate until graduation."

Explore-invent-contract? Health alert: severe STD outbreak on campus

Amanda Russell-Sturgess-Radcliffe
Staff Writer

School officials have issued an extreme health warning for students on Centenary's campus: be wary of the recent STD outbreak. After discovering the campus completely devoid of condoms due to rumors spread by the Crisis Pregnancy Center that rubbers don't work, school nurse Molly Manno found herself wondering what students were using for sexual protection and birth control.

Apparently, they're not using much of anything. The condoms located in the box outside of the health clinic were left so long in hot, sunny conditions that the condoms broke before they could be taken out of their packets. Additionally, a rumor that Hope Abortion Clinic workers came over and poked holes in the condoms is also circulating around campus.

Last week, lines of itching, uncomfortable students waited outside the basement of Rotary for a chance to be "inspected." Manno has seen over 250 students as of last Friday and suspects there are many more who haven't the "balls" to show up at the clinic. All students tested positive for one or more sexually transmitted diseases.

The most prevalent STDs on campus include chlamydia, syphilis, and genital warts. Gonorrhea was also discovered in some students. Senior James King realized he had a problem: "My penis, Jimmy Junior, wouldn't stop leaking, so I visited Nurse Manno and she sent me to a doctor. Diagnosis: Gonorrhea."

Manno and school officials inquired into the source of the STD problem and discovered a startling truth. Using the closing and remodeling of the second floor of the library as a rude guise, students began holding orgy parties up there late into the night. With a lack of condoms and a lack of concern, students "poked and stroked their way to the Clap and other diseases," as one rather vulgar student put it (too hilarious not to be quoted, however).

After last week's blood drive collected an alarmingly small number of blood units (undoubtedly due to a lack of potential donors because of recent sexual encounters), school officials began to worry that HIV may soon become a problem on campus. The number of pregnancies has also jumped up to 45 cases. The Wyoming Ranch for unwed mothers can take no more Centenary students at this time. Worries about the transmission of STDs to the resulting children are also a major concern.

The rate of infection on Centenary's campus is the highest on any college campus in the United States and could be a precursor to a larger national infection problem. The U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Mike Leavitt, has begun issuing sanctions against the college due to its lack of protective and informative safe sex education and its allowance of such groups as the Crisis Pregnancy Center on Centenary's campus.

Leavitt worries that the diseases may begin to mutate at Centenary and spread across the nation. He hopes that he can avoid a total quarantine, but argues that the situation may soon come to that point. In the meantime, strap on a rubber before you do the dirty deed.

Academic study of "Gay-by-May" effect to commence

Fatty Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

The Sociology Department announced this week that it will perform an in-depth study of the so-called "Gay-by-May" effect at Centenary, starting with the incoming 2008-2009 class.

The "Gay-by-May" effect gives credence to the label of Centenary as an open-minded community. The phenomenon has been labeled as such because many first-year students come to Centenary in the closet, so to speak, and are out and proud by the time the end of the school year rolls around.

The study fits well with the theme of Preview Weekend – "Come As You Are, Leave Different" – where hundreds of prospective students will come to Centenary, attend a Ben Folds concert for free while regular students pay $15 a pop, and make decisions about whether or not to enroll in the College.

The sociological study will kick off this weekend by polling prospectives for their current sexual orientation. These same students will then be polled again in the fall if (and when) they enroll, in December at the mid-year point, and finally in May 2009. Researchers plan to follow the progression of any changes in sexual orientation.

Senior James King said, "It is so refreshing to see our school finally implementing the suggestions from the Diversity Climate Assessment."

Junior Sara Carpenter, a Sociology minor, will be participating in order to receive credit for independent study.

"I'm interested to see the results of this study, not just for the sake of sociology, but also as a heterosexual female on campus," said Carpenter. "Remember that silly and poorly written flyer about how the girls on campus aren't attractive? We could never give a proper rebuttal because it wasn't applicable. Sometimes it seems the majority of Centenary guys are gay, and this will give us insight into why."

Senior Rhagen Russell, who was nearby at the time of the interview, added that solid conclusions using the scientific method would also present irrefutable evidence of what most people already know: heterosexual Centenary females must search for romantic partners off campus.

Also to be taken into account is the assumption that gay males on campus far outnumber lesbians. No hypotheses have yet been projected by the Sociology Department, but students who wish to remain anonymous have suggested the following:

"Ever since we got rid of the Rifle Club, there aren't any more lesbians."

"There are more lesbians, they just hide!"

"There are more stereotypical gay male activities on campus, like musical theater. All the gay guys are in Choir."

When asked what stereotypical lesbian activities are lacking, the students answered with "weight-lifting" and "motorcycle club," before remembering their expensive college education and realizing the error of their typecasting ways.

The Psychology Department will also be involved with the research in order to study the effects that variables like the Gay Politics module and Outreach events may have with students' decisions to come out.

Centenary's Rosie A. Rouser wins Miss Louisiana crown (by default)

Chutney, the Coolest Delaney of Them All
Layout Editor

On March 30, Mindy Jones, who was crowned Miss Louisiana 2007, was stripped of her tiara due to a sex scandal. According to a statement made by the Miss Louisiana Organization, "A month ago we received reports that Miss Jones had been fraternizing with one of the judges prior to as well as during the pageant. Of course we took this matter very seriously and did a thorough investigation, after which we found that the allegations were founded. Naturally, Miss Jones was asked to step down as Miss Louisiana."

There were no comments on which judge Jones was reportedly canoodling with, but after the initial report there seems to be reports of similar offenses pouring into the Miss Louisiana Organization. "It's insane," former Miss Louisiana Flo Thyme remarked. "It seems as though every participant in the 2007 pageant was sleeping with this judge!" That is, every participant but one.

Miss Rosie A. Rouser of Centenary College was given the crown on March 31 as she was the only one who "remained pure and respected the guidelines of the pageant," the Miss Louisiana Organization stated. Rouser, who was eliminated from the running before even getting to sport her swimsuit, was ecstatic upon hearing the news. In fact, she was speechless. When the Conglomerate attempted to interview Rouser, she just stared at the reporters blankly with a strange expression that resembled a combination of a deer caught in the headlights and disgust, or possibly that's just the way her face looks.

While she didn't get very far in the actual pageant, she was named Miss Congeniality by her fellow pageant-mates. One of the other girls commented, "That Rosie, she's so funny. But that face!" Other girls at the pageant all agreed that Rouser was definitely the most likeable of the contestants and got along with everyone.

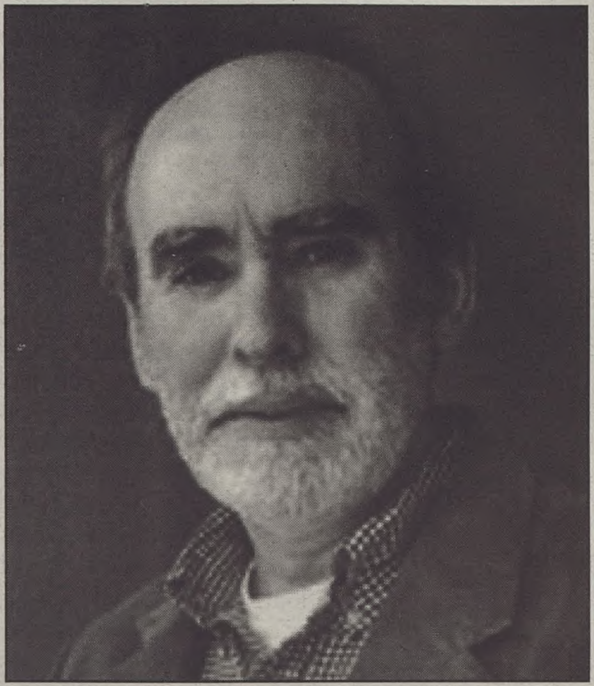
Michael Jarboe, a close friend to Rouser, was not surprised that she was the only one that was not involved in the scandal. "I've known Rosie all my life," he said. "We are really close. She's a really moral person, so I knew she would never have done something like that. Also, I think she's a lesbian."

Rouser will serve as Miss Louisiana for the rest of what would have been Jones' term. In June, she will pass on the crown to the next Miss Louisiana.

Photo: Rosie wins the Miss-terCentenary pageant.. Credit: Mindy McKoin.

Dr. David Havird to go on African safari for sabbatical

Sara "Killing Me Softly" Carpenter-Creevy
Staff Writer



For the fall semester, English Professor Dr. David Havird will be taking a sabbatical. Dr. Havird will be traveling to Africa in order to better connect with Joseph Conrad's book, Heart of Darkness.

This semester Dr. Havird is teaching Seminar in the British Novel. In this class, he teaches Conrad's book, Heart of Darkness. Dr. Havird decided before this semester that he would be going on a sabbatical, though where he was going was still unclear to him.

After beginning to read the novel for the class Dr. Havird had an epiphany. He commented, "I began reading the novel and it just occurred to me that in order to better understand Marlow's journey and the motivations behind it, as well as Conrad's motivations, I would have to recreate the journey I had read and imagined."

When asked about how Havird taught the book in previous classes, junior Kari Patterson said, "Dr. Havird was really enthusiastic about Heart of Darkness. It was a little creepy the way he talked about it—as if he was Marlow. He talked about the characters as if he had really met them. I think he's a little obsessed."

Dr. Havird's trip will begin at the mouth of the Congo River in Angola. He will follow the story as closely as possible, even spending a few months stranded while in need of rivets to repair his boat. In order to recreate the story in a more believable manner, Dr. Havird will be enlisting the help of locals. Using grant money, he was able to hire people to play Kurtz, the captain Marlow was journeying to see, as well as village members and other characters Marlow had contact with in the novel.

In preparation for his trip, Dr. Havird reread the novel numerous times. He can now recite the entire book verbatim. In addition to this, he has also repeatedly watched the film Apocalypse Now, starring Martin Sheen, which is based on the novel.

Dr. Havird is hoping this experience will change the way he teaches Seminar in the British Novel entirely. He hopes it will inspire his students to take a much deeper interest in the novels they read. In the future, he would like to plan a module for students that reenacts the Lord of the Flies. Dr. Havird said, "There will, of course, be no plane crash, but other than that I hope to stick fairly close to the plot line. The students do sign a waiver."

Dr. Havird will be back by the spring semester, assuming he is able to plan the timeline of Marlow's journey accordingly. More details on the module will be available when he returns from his sabbatical.

Photo credit: www.centenary.edu.

Centenary announces Larry Flynt as 2008 commencement speaker

Amanda Russell-Sturgess-Radcliffe
Staff Writer

American publisher – most famous for Hustler magazine – and longtime free speech activist Larry Flynt has been named Centenary's graduation speaker for 2008.

Born in 1948 in Kentucky, Flynt experienced a troubled childhood. He had sex with a chicken at the age of nine and became an alcoholic by the time his parents divorced. He ran away from home at the age of fifteen and joined the army using a counterfeit birth certificate. He picked up the game of poker while in the army. After his discharge, Flynt went to work for General Motors, but soon joined up with the Navy and was a part of the USS Enterprise crew responsible for collecting the John Glenn space capsule.

After his discharge in 1964, Flynt took some of his savings and bought a bar in Dayton, Ohio. Flynt was soon able to buy many bars across the state and make more money. He opened a string of successful bars and nightclubs, including his now famous "Hustler Club."

In 1972 he created the "Hustler Newsletter" to fill in his patrons with the latest information about his clubs. After its popular success and an economic recession in the United States, Flynt decided to turn his venture into a national sex magazine. Hustler magazine became infamous as the first magazine to show open shots of vaginas. Flynt also obtained nude pictures of former First Lady Jackie Kennedy and published them in 1975. That copy sold over a million issues, putting Flynt on the map. The rest, as they say, is history.

HUST
HUST
HUSTLER

After a successful campaign by males on campus, Centenary officials decided to invite Flynt to speak at graduation. "Flynt epitomizes everything this campus stands for: ingenuity, creativity, and a desire to see beautiful naked women," said one Centenary male.

The Centenary Business Department plans on inviting Flynt to speak to a few classes before the graduation exercises. "Flynt's multi-million dollar empire is a great business model for Centenary's students," remarked one business professor.

Creationists and other fundamentalist Christians in the Shreveport community are appalled by Centenary's invitation to Flynt to speak on campus. Four town-hall style meetings are scheduled to discuss the event, and petitions have even been sent to the Methodist Church to revoke funding if the graduation engagement proceeds forward as planned.

Centenary officials, however, stand firmly by their decision to invite Flynt to campus. An official news release of the college reads as follows: "Flynt is everything a Centenary student should aspire to be: someone who can overcome obstacles, is not afraid to shy away from controversial issues, and is successful, interested in business, and just plain different. More importantly, with Flynt receiving an honorary degree from the college, we automatically gain one of the most famous alumni in all of history. Think of how much our funding pot will grow!"

Commencement exercises will take place in the Centenary Gold Dome on May 10, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

Image credit: Hartford Advocate.

Students raise awareness of retention rates through unconventional means

Sara "Killing Me Softly" Carpenter-Creevy and Kari "You Bring the Handcuffs" Patterson
Staff Writers

Ever seen "The Da Vinci Code"? Hopefully the self-flagellation didn't creep you out too much, because the Student Involvement Association is counting on a big crowd at their next event. On April 10, during the convocation hour, the SIA will be putting on a large demonstration of self-flagellation to get the administration's attention about falling retention rates.

Over the past few years, enrollment has gone down and retention rates are faltering. The SIA noticed this and has taken an active interest in the issue. President John Jingleheimer-Smith said, "We wanted a fun way to display the issue that wouldn't take a lot of time from students' schedules."

To make their point about the number of students who have fled Centenary over the past four years, Jingleheimer-Smith and select other members of the SIA have constructed versions of cat o'nine tails and will use them to beat themselves, one lash for each transfer. Said Jingleheimer-Smith, "Since these former Centenary students apparently felt that staying here was unbearable, we're trying to show other students just what the 'Centenary Experience' must have been like for them before they left." And what could be more painful than self-flagellation? "We think it's an excellent demonstrative tool, and we're all on the student health insurance plan anyway, so we figured, why not?" added SIA Vice President of Programming Jacob von Blutenstein.

The administration is not happy about this demonstration. Dr. Schwab was not available for comment, though Jingleheimer-Smith did speak with the President about the event and commented, "Dr. Schwab tried to convince us that self-flagellation is not the way to get our point across, but we feel this is the only method to get across to the administration that we are serious about action on this issue being taken." When asked if the administration recommended an alternative, the SIA commented, "They told us instead of self flagellation we should demonstrate our concerns by releasing doves, but where the [expletive] are we supposed to get doves? And we're not protesting for peace."

The SIA is a very active organization on campus. Last semester, they held a clothing strike to express their solidarity with a Quebec nudist colony that was coming under increasing pressure from the Canadian government to cease the nudity. However, when the organization didn't receive the expected response from the student body, the group decided to bring different issues to the attention of campus.

"The failure of our last demonstration showed us that the students here at Centenary really don't care about Canada, and from the looks we were getting, they also think Canada is a complete waste of space, so for this round of awareness we decided to go with something a bit closer to home. And we don't think the nudity had anything to do with the negative reaction last time, but just in case, we'll all be clothed from the waist down," added von Blutenstein. Students interested in participating in the demonstration should contact John Jingleheimer-Smith.

Opinion: Vegetarians are wrong

Sharon Shaw
Guest Columnist
Former Editor-in-Chief of LA Tech's
newspaper, *Tech Talk*

Vegans are over-achievers.

It's not enough to save the cows and the cute little bunnies (people eat those, right?) but they have to save the eggs and the cheese and everything else. Personally, I've never met an egg that didn't deserve to die. And it's not like they're defenseless; most of them are crawling with salmonella and other nasties that'll kill you dead. Okay, they won't always kill you dead, but eggs are certainly not innocent.

Neither are cows. I don't trust cows; I never have and never will because I can't tell what they're thinking. Being nearly trampled to death by Charolais calves doesn't help their case. Kill all the cows you want; I don't even care. Same with chickens, though I don't think anyone has ever been nearly-trampled by a herd of fluffy yellow chicks. I don't trust chickens farther than I could throw them, which wouldn't be far since I don't touch chickens.

I'm a bad vegetarian.

I love meat too much. It's a sickness, like alcoholism or being a Saints fan. I don't try to cull the meat from my diet like I should. Pork fried rice? Yes, please; I'll just eat around it. Crab meat hidden in my cheese won tons? Oops.

I take a more liberal approach and use the food pyramid as my guide (and not the vegetarian's food pyramid, mind you, but the good old-fashioned one). Up near the top is a little section that says "Meat, poultry, fish," and some other stuff I'm not worried about, like eggs (all should die) and nuts.

Seems to me that anything not poultry and not fish is meat. So, chicken is not meat. Fish? Not meat either. Bacon? Meat. Sausage? Disgusting and no one should eat it anyway. Also goes for any meat in a patty, or the word patty. Don't say it.

On a quick side note, it's perfectly fine to eat whole-muscle beef if it's rare. Nothing bad will happen. Hamburger is a different matter; it gets covered with intestinal juices and the juices are ground in with the meat. So don't eat a rare hamburger, because that's gross.

Back on track. I think I have a family-friendly form of vegetarianism. Kids love chicken nuggets; never met a kid in my life who wouldn't eat chicken nuggets. It's a staple. As far as my rules are concerned my dog is a vegetarian, too, because he eats chicken and rice-flavored dog food.

That isn't true. He eats lamb and rice formula, but I was trying to make a point.

Maybe my problem is I'm a fair-weather vegetarian. It's easy when I'm in control. I never put meat on my pizza, but I never take it off when someone else orders. That would be rude.

It's easy to avoid meats I don't like, such as sausage (which probably isn't really meat at all) and probably veal. It's harder to avoid subtle meat or meats I love, like a thick juicy steak or a good fried squirrel. I'm Southern... it's allowed.

Besides, me not eating meat isn't saving that cow. It's going to die anyway. Better not let it go to waste, right?

I guess what I'm trying to say is that vegetarianism is wrong and you should eat whatever you want.

Next Year's Budgets Allocated by SGA

Conglomerate- $10,000 per semester is allocated for pizza, booze, and bribes to get staff to turn in articles on time.

Yoncopin- $100 per autograph page, with a deduction of $75 for each day after SGA gets their copies that the rest of the student body still hasn't received theirs.

KSCL- $4.95 per semester for cigarettes, coffee, and/or heart medication for the station manager, as applicable.

Fighting Squirrels- cos2x (1/2 bc2)4, where x= the number of squirrels on campus, b= how recognized the band is, and c= the amount raised in a 25 minute period at Chick-fil-A.

Pandora- $80 for each copy that is distributed, and $300 for transporting the leftover copies to recycling facilities.

Film Society- $5 per non-Centenary student who attends, and $50 per Centenary student. Numbers will be based on an arbitrarily chosen weeks' data.

SGA Office- $500,000 for undisclosed SGA needs.

SGA Resolutions- $2.50 to be divided among outside groups as requested.

CAB- declined to comment on their budget to the Conglomerate.

A&E

Ben Folds cancelled, Amy Winehouse to play instead

Samantha Green Machine
Staff Writer

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Ben Folds concert scheduled for tonight has been cancelled. Have no fear: Fighting Squirrels will still be putting on a concert for the college. Amy Winehouse has been selected as the replacement for Ben Folds.

With smash hits like "Rehab" and "You Know I'm No Good" and five Grammys under her belt, Amy Winehouse is a great choice. Her performance at Centenary this weekend will end rumors that she is going back to rehab.

For those who are unfamiliar with an Amy Winehouse performance, her DVD "Amy Winehouse Live in London" is available and there is always YouTube. She can shuck and jive with the worst of them, but her vocals are amazing.

For those who purchased Ben Folds tickets and are not happy with his replacement, selling your tickets is all the advice I have for you because the tickets are nonrefundable.

The excitement about Amy Winehouse coming to Centenary is far and widespread. Blogs and internet sites are beside themselves with anticipation about Winehouse's Shreveport debut, as well as the power and money of Fighting Squirrels Productions. FSP were able to secure the necessary visas to allow Winehouse into the country, which Grammy organizers could not do because of her drug-filled past (and present).

Having Amy Winehouse as the replacement was a tough decision for the Fighting Squirrels to make, but with a deadline and so many performers already booked, they had to get who was available.

Amy Winehouse's "Back to Black" album was a bestseller with amazing songs that make her even more of a star. Her performance at Centenary will hopefully spark even more mainstream artists to stop here on their tours.

Who knows? Maybe next year it'll be Hannah Montana.

"Meet the Spartans" is a priceless gem of comedy

Hairy Johnson
A&E Editor

"300" was one of the most awesome movies…ever. It was highly stylized and extremely violent and bloody. The action was intense and the acting was top-notch. Everything about the movie was pitch-perfect. Naturally, everything in Hollywood must be parodied nowadays, so it was only natural that "300" was next on the list. Because of this, we now have the brilliantly titled "Meet the Spartans."

"Meet the Spartans" essentially rehashes the plot of "300." After receiving an ultimatum from Persian leader King Xerxes, Spartan fighter King Leonidas (Sean Maguire) decides to lead 13 warriors to fight the armies of Xerxes. However, in this version, everything is turned on its head and made funny.

This movie is near perfect in its comedic writing and timing. Even if every scene is almost lifted directly from "300" and every other movie that is being spoofed, it is still hilarious. I mean, how can you not laugh at a scene that involves the Spartans in a dance- off with the Persians while shouting quotes from the movie "You Got Served"? That is comedic gold, people.

There is also the "This is Sparta" scene. Not only is the dialogue taken directly from the movie, they even included a parody of Britney Spears. I never stopped laughing during this entire exchange.

However, the greatest joke in the movie comes from the fact that they keep making references to the latent homosexuality of the Spartans. They are all extremely effeminate and hilarious.

I also love the appearance of a black-suited Spider-Man (who just happens to be a woman in this movie), the Shrek babies, the "American Idol" judges, Ghost Rider, and Paris Hilton. After all, the funniest thing on earth is poking fun at bad movies and even worse people.

I also have to give props to the leads of this film: Sean Maguire, Carmen Elektra, Kevin Sorbo (who has really stepped up since his days on "Hercules,") and Ken Davitian (as a hilariously gross and fat Xerxes). Maguire pulls off one of the best Gerard Butler impersonations that I have seen. There are times when I actually thought that they dubbed Butler's dialogue from "300" over Maguire's mouth during this movie.

Chalk this movie up as another comedic winner for the guys that made "Epic Movie," "Date Movie," and wrote some of "Scary Movie." I will certainly be waiting for their next foray into scene recreation with their next parody film. Now, if those guys that made "Hot Fuzz" and "Shaun of the Dead" could take some lessons from the virtuoso work here, then they would really be on to some money-making.

SPORTS

Centenary Volleyball: Where are they now?

Mick "Bruise Me or Cruise Me" Jarbles
Sports Editor

The screams of bump, set, and spike have been a little quieter as the new semester set in this January. The short shorts and knee pads have thrown in the towel due to the recent leave of all but one of the 2007-2008 Ladies Volleyball members. There are multiple reasons why they left: illness, food quality, boys, rabid dogs – the list could go on an on. Recently, an anonymous list of the status of these ladies from the past few months popped up on a local Shreveport blog. This peaceful, non-controversial blog (the KSCL one hosted by Jon Schleuss) didn't list if I could release any of the information to the Centenary athletic fans, but I believe the people need to know.

Christina Nichols - Reason for Leaving - Ebola Virus

Christina "The Machine" Nichols was diagnosed with having an acute specimen of the Ebola virus caused by what she says is, "chicken nugget night." As a matter of fact, that's all she can say: "chicken nugget night, chicken nugget night, chicken nugget night." This severe virus has completely subdued her body into a state of pure chicken nugget nightmare. Heavy sweats and the dire need for gallons of ketchup have given doctors no sign of soon recovery for the former sophomore star.

Danielle Bochat - Reason for Leaving - *Basballeta Playayitis*

Basballeta Playayitis is a common disease that happens to many women that embark on further education in college. The disease (written above in ancient Latin) is English for, "to fall for a baseball player." Miss Bochat developed the disease after many tough seasons on the volleyball courts. "I wanted [bodily shaking begins], I wanted to live a... a normal life," she said in an almost growling voice. "It gets inside you and messes you up, dude." Her critical condition, unlike Miss Nichols, can be treated. With intense therapy and avoiding any contact with any baseball players, she may one day be back to her normal state. If you or any of your family members or close friends have been diagnosed with B.P., please get them help while there's still time. Call toll-free: 318-210-2781.

Yvonne Rameriz - Reason for Leaving - Lack of Diversity

Yvonne Rameriz, a fiery Latina woman from south Texas, worked hard her first year in college as one of the three new freshman to join the squad. With incredible court abilities and plans to pursue nursing through the pre-med department, Yvonne had all she could ever need at Centenary. Right? Wrong. She needed more hermanas. The void she had in her heart for some strong Spanish communication skills, food, and culture was never filled. "I tried to stop her," said fellow Latina friend Marissa Torez. "She was going loca and no one could stop her." Yvonne is now back in her hometown of Mission, TX. She has no bitterness towards the lack of culture on the Centenary campus. "You call Taco Mania authentic [spits on the ground]? You wouldn't know authentic if I spiked it in your face."

Stephanie Hobaugh - Reason for Leaving - Unknown

Seriously. No one knows what ever happened to Stephanie. Where is she?

Elise Sisson - Reason for Leaving - Rabid Dogs

In the heart of choosing a new mascot this season, young Elise Sisson had one animal in mind for her selection. "I totally think the Chihuahua should be the mascot. That would be so sick!" The California native who bred chihuahuas during the off-season decided to have her father send down six, full-blood pups to prove her point. Once receiving the dogs, she knew she had to approach Dr. Schwab with her notion. "I totally think the Chihuahua should be the mascot. That would be so sick!" Dr. Schwab wasn't sure why having a Chihuahua as mascot would make you feel bad, so he decided to drop the idea out of the top five. Elise was heart-broken, and when she broke the news to the six pups, they decided to retaliate. After four hours of intense chihuahua bites to her arms, legs, and face, Elise was taken to a hospital for recovery. Elise, now back in college in her home state of California, is back to full health. As for the six Chihuahua pups, they befriended Skeeter and reminded him, "We are all different; embrace it! Together we ARE Centenary."

New tennis courts ruined by mosh pit

Karyn "Klingon" Gehrls
Staff Writer

As all of you know, Battle of the Bands was last Saturday. With this lively crew came a lot of groupies and rockers, and we all know that where rockers go, mosh pits do as well. During Battle of the Bands, many audience members decided to take their rocking elsewhere. They ended up at the tennis courts, where head-banging and general destruction ensued.

It all began around 3:30 p.m., when several moshers changed the route of the pit. As the pit moved, more people found themselves dragged into its path. Rather than being trampled, the outsiders joined in to survive the stampede.

"I didn't know what to do. I was scared for my life," one outsider said. She and two others came out unharmed, but three outsiders didn't get off so easily. Two freshmen and a senior were harmed in the process of "Mosh Pit Mania 2008," as some moshers are now calling it. One survived with a skinned knee while the other two had only mild concussions.

"I didn't know which way was in and which way was out, so I just spun around in circles until it stopped," said freshman Kory Skinnard. He was one of the unharmed although dizzy outsiders involved it the mosh pit passion.

The moshers moved their pit to the tennis courts, where several nets were dragged into the madness, eventually slowing down the group and ending the stampede. By that time, the tennis courts were so damaged that there was no way to salvage them.

"I can't believe they did that! That's why I only listen to rap music! You can't mosh to rap music," said one anonymous senior tennis player upon discovering the damage done to the newly refurbished courts. The administration plans on rebuilding the tennis courts as soon as funds are made available (see the article on fundraising in the Features section for more information).

Quad faces transformation into a putt-putt golf course

Karyn "Klingon" Gehrls
Staff Writer

The Quad (the area between the back of Magale Library and Hamilton Hall) is being transformed into a putt-putt golf course. Happy-Go-Lucky Putt-Putt Golf Emporium is sponsoring the Centenary Tolf team on one condition: turn some part of campus into a putt-putt golf course.

Happy-Go-Lucky representative Lion Forest said, "We enjoy watching hardcore teams like the Tolf team and would like to give back to them by opening up a place on their campus where they can practice."

The putt-putt course will feature two ponds with live ducks and fish, a bridge, a cave, and of course, the dreaded windmill hole. All students are welcome to play there, but underclassmen must pay ten dollars per round. Juniors and seniors always play free and Wednesday night is ladies' night.

Construction is set to begin April 10 and will run until April 11. Please be courteous to the men at work and bring them some Arby's (because we all know that's what they want). For any comments, concerns, questions, or punch lines, please visit Happy-Go-Lucky Putt-Putt Golf Emporium at their website www.youresogullible.com.

Does alcohol create unnecessary problems in your life?

Think you might have a drinking problem?

Log on to
www.centenary.edu/services/counseling
and click on
"Online Mental Health Screening"
to take a free, confidential screening.

Then call the Centenary Counseling Center at 869-5466 and make an appointment to get the help you need.

Bieler "The Brawler" signed up for 3 years with wrestling federation

Mick "Bruise Me or Cruise Me" Jarbles
Sports Editor

World Wrestling Federation (W.W.F) chairman, Vince McMahon, announced last Thursday of the arrival of new "superstar" to enter the Smackdown lineup by the end of the month. David Bieler "The Brawler" from Shreveport, Louisiana has been given a 3 year contract with the federation. A former lightweight champion of the P.W.C. (Professor's Wrestling Conference) of Sheboygan, WI, Bieler has spent the past 12 years training to get back in the swing of things for the next step of his career. "I eat eggs, eggs, and eggs for breakfast every morning." The diet was given to him by his personal coach Ingle Denocklavich of Russia. Ingle has trained with some of the best in WWF, including: Stafford "The Ladder of Death," Chompa-Chompa Chirhart, and current heavy-weight champion of the world Dave "The Singer with the Stinger" Thompson. "He is training very well for a man with his stamina," said Denocklavich. "This is his sport and he's going to put the pain on everything he says." Bieler's rock-hard moves have stirred many of the other wrestlers in the federation. His dominating Bieler-bomb-choke-hold has haunted many wrestlers after they've entered the ring with him. "He doesn't play around in there," said Trae "Walker Texas" Milam. "He gets all buck-wild and crazy; there's no stopping him." Bieler begins his time in the ring Sunday, April 12 at the *Doomsday Death Ball* against long-time nemesis Vetter, "The Metamorphic Mammoth."

Centenary opts to move toward the future of sports

Samantha Green Machine
Staff Writer

Face it. Centenary won't be getting a football team anywhere in the near future. With the rise of technology and in an effort to raise enrollment, fall 2008 will mark the beginning of Centenary College of Louisiana's Wii Sports teams.

The Wii Sports teams will include baseball, bowling, golf, tennis, and boxing. In addition to the Ladies, Gents, and Catahoula, the Miis will serve as mascot for the Wii Sports teams.

Teams will wear matching t-shirts and khaki shorts or pants. There will be an interest meeting in late May. Tryouts will take place this June. For those who make the cut, practices will begin in late June.

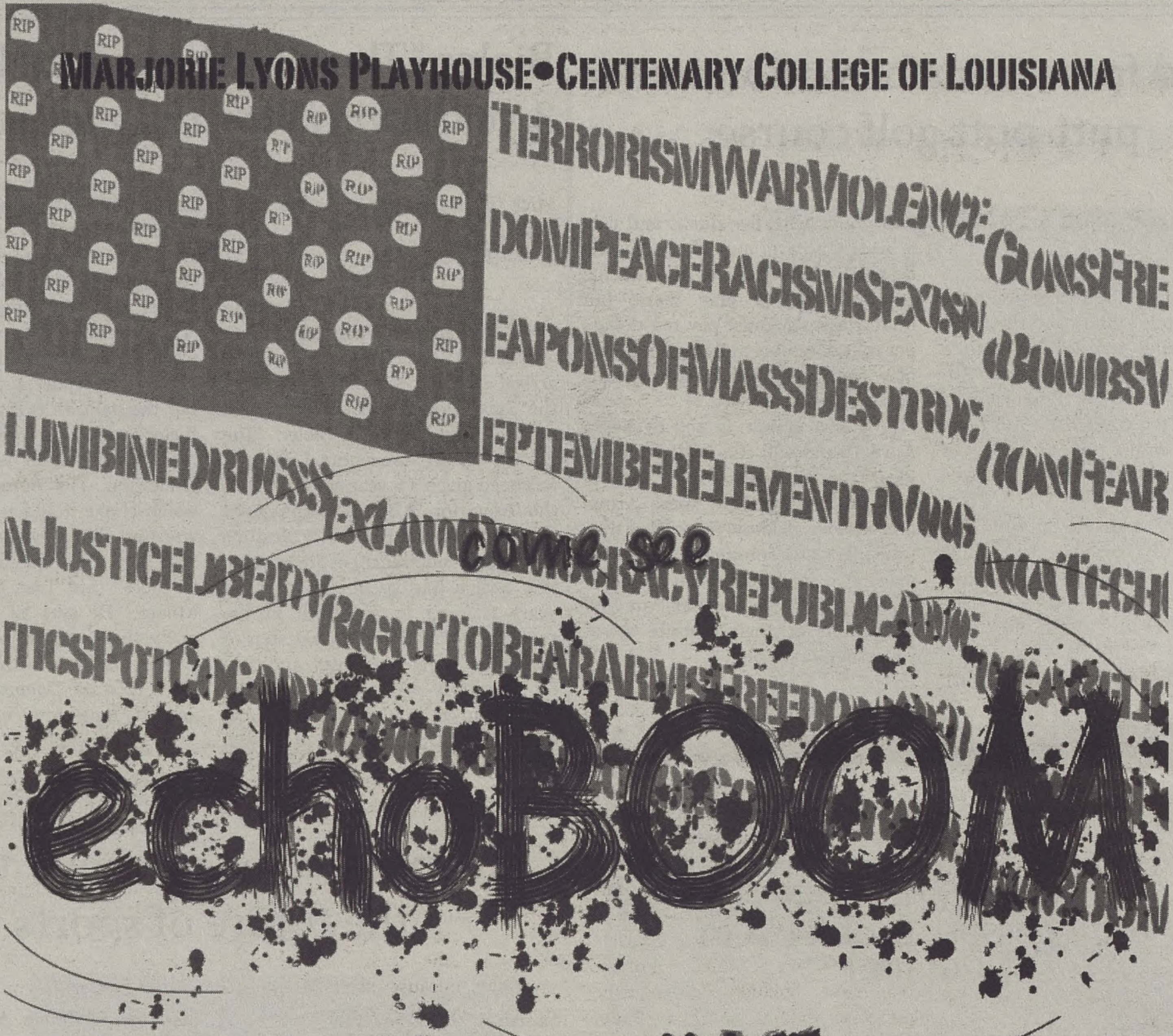
Recruiting has already begun for incoming freshmen. As an incentive, incoming freshmen who are selected to play on the Wii Sports Teams will be given a Wii for private practice.

Administration has already stated that this is a wonderful move into the future for Centenary sports and if things go smoothly and with the advances being made in technology, pretty soon all of sports will be Wii Sports or similar.

Many students have already expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Wii Sports teams. Once the teams have been set up, practices will take place in the SUB, Gold Dome, Cline fishbowl, and James lobby.

The Wii Sports teams are just one of the few new programs being implemented in a way to save money and improve enrollment in the long run.

MARJORIE LYONS PLAYHOUSE•CENTENARY COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA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JESUS, AMERICA, & PUPPIES

APRIL 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 AT 8PM
& APRIL 13 AT 2PM

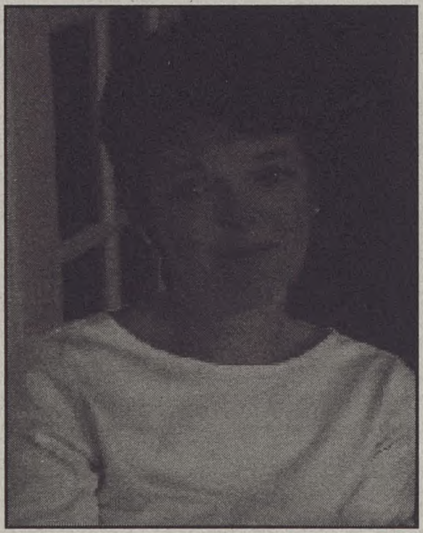
POST-SHOW DISCUSSIONS WITH DIRECTOR, PLAYWRIGHT & CAST
FOLLOWING EACH PERFORMANCE

BOX OFFICE: 318.869.5242
12-4PM MON.-FRI.

(Caution: real news, may cause allergic reaction - use protection)

Writer Alice McDermott visits Centenary to receive Corrington Award

Jennifer Strange
Assistant Professor of English



Acclaimed novelist Alice McDermott will give a public reading of her work at 7:00 p.m. Monday, April 7, in Kilpatrick Auditorium. She will be the 18th writer to the receive Centenary's John William Corrington Award for Literary Excellence.

An Irish Catholic writer of Irish Catholic novels, Alice McDermott has a keen and experienced eye for real people in all their best and worst motivations. Her novels demonstrate the great stakes in the human narrative. Thus, it is no surprise that they have captured critical and popular attention.

Three of her six novels (including her latest, "*After This*," published in 2006) have been finalists for the Pulitzer Prize. Her novel "*Charming Billy*" won the National Book Award in 1998. Another, "*At Weddings and Wakes*," was a *New York Times* bestseller. And the list could go on.

McDermott has also published articles, reviews, and stories in all manner of periodicals, from *The Washington Post* to *Seventeen*. Since 1996, she has taught in the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University, arguably the nation's premier graduate program in fiction writing.

Now she will add Centenary's literary award to her list of accolades and honors. Named for a Centenary alumnus who authored the short novel "*Decoration Day*, "the Corrington Award takes the form of a bronze medal designed by the internationally acclaimed Louisiana sculptor Clyde Connell. Previous recipients include distinguished poets as well as novelists: Eudora Welty, Ernest J. Gaines, James Dickey, Anthony Hecht, Eavan Boland, Debora Greger and William Logan, and, last year, Louisiana native and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Yusef Komunyakaa.

McDermott will be on campus all day Monday, visiting four English 101 classes and chatting with all comers from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Literature and Languages Common Room on Jackson Hall's third floor. For more information, contact Jennifer Strange (869-5256, jstrange@centenary.edu) in the English Department.

College to pay $200,000 in sex discrimination settlement

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Centenary College is paying $200,000 to settle a sex discrimination lawsuit with a former basketball coach, according to a press release from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Elizabeth Wamsley, women's basketball coach from 2004-2006, brought suit against the College for firing her in March 2006. The news release said Wamsley was fired "after she became an unwed mother."

"The EEOC had charged that the Shreveport college had demanded the resignation of its women's intercollegiate basketball head coach and then fired her because she had had a child...such alleged conduct violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," stated the release, obtained from Media Spokesman David Grinberg.

The evidence to support this allegation comes in the form of statements made by then Athletic Director Taylor Moore, who told Wamsley "she could not continue coaching because she was now a mother," according to the EEOC.

The Conglomerate reported about the lawsuit in the fall semester, including the charge that Moore told an assistant athletic director that "his major concern was her 'life choice' in deciding to have a baby" and that she might not "be able to be 100 percent committed to her coaching duties as a result." The lawsuit was brought in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana.

Wamsley took over the women's basketball team as interim coach after David Winkler quit in April 2004 "amid allegations of an improper relationship with a player," according to an Associated Press report published in the Shreveport Times on March 28. Under her leadership, the Ladies had a record of 4-49, but this was apparently not an issue in her firing.

The AP report quotes EEOC attorney N. Eleanor Graham as saying Wamsley's "last performance review, right before she had the baby, was satisfactory." The attorney also said student athletes were complaining about both Wamsley and Moore and "the program reflected total chaos because of recruiting issues."

Wamsley gave birth in September 2005 and returned to the school as a full-time coach 10 days later. She was fired in March 2006 after the basketball season ended.

The EEOC statement also states "the school didn't admit wrongdoing but agreed to pay damages to Wamsley, train its staff about sex discrimination and post policy on the matter." Graham said Wamsley and the College have signed an agreement "to say little about the settlement."

College President Dr. Kenneth Schwab verified that statement in an email to The Conglomerate, saying, "We here at Centenary College are satisfied that this matter has been resolved amicably and to the satisfaction of all parties involved. Out of respect for each party's privacy, we really cannot comment any further on this matter."

Dr. Schwab also acknowledged that staff will receive training about discrimination and policy will be posted in accordance with EEOC laws and guidelines.

"Now that this matter has been resolved, Centenary College will be able to focus 100 percent on its primary mission – providing a strong community for the education of our students," he said. "We appreciate the support of the community and look forward to moving ahead."

Wamsley currently teaches high school in Corinth, Mississippi.

Centenary competes in the Summit League (called the Mid-Continent Conference when Wamsley was employed). Men's basketball coach Rob Flaska, who led the team for three seasons, parted ways with Centenary two weeks ago.

Letter from the Editor: What I love about being a media head (which is why you should apply)

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Let's be honest: it's crunch time for my academics, and having spent most of my time on the newspaper, I'm a little stressed. Despite that, I want to focus on what I love about being a media head. It's that time of the year: applications for the 2008-2009 media heads (Conglomerate, KSCL, Pandora, Yoncopin, and Film Society) are due Wednesday, April 9, and I want this year to be different. I want more than one person to apply for each position.

It's stressful, yes, and it doesn't always pay – literally, as the Congo staff starting with this week's issue are going without pay (watch for emails, Facebook messages, and a lengthier explanation in next week's issue about our budgetary crunch – I don't want to scare too many people away right now). However, there are immeasurable benefits that come with each position, and speaking from three semesters' experience of being the Congo Editor, here's what I love:

The people you meet. I've made so many great friends with Congo staff members as well as students and faculty not involved with the paper. The editor really has to be aware of all news from all quarters of campus to be an effective newspaper leader, and I know I've met several people and made several long-lasting friendships that wouldn't have happened otherwise.

The experiences you have. From the zaniness of Sunday night meetings (where we assign articles for the next week's issue) to gaining insight into the operations of other media on campus to spending so much time in the Congo office I often sleep there – these are memories I'll never forget (in a good way). Being a media head really does shape your college experience, and I assume you apply to work with a medium you love: I love newspapers and journalism, and I wouldn't sacrifice all that I've learned.

Finally, the impact of your medium – I cannot help but grin like a loon anytime I see someone reading The Conglomerate (even if they're grimacing or circling typos with a red pen). The greatest rush is to know that week after week, people are reading what the staff spends so much time and effort producing, and the icing on the cake is when people actually enjoy it.

In the same vein, it's also important to vote in the SGA Executive Council elections, which should be early next week. I think students finally realized this year how much student leadership impacts them through the allocation of student fees – it's all in your hands now, folks. It's as simple as applying and/or voting.

What I want every student to know is that you don't have to be the most experienced candidate to be the most qualified: by the time I applied for Editor-in-Chief, I had held different positions on staff, but knew next to nothing about the software tools used for weekly layout. It's important that the editor know these tools to significantly contribute to layout, know how to alter and improve it, and have a measure of control, but all my training was on-the-job: Roxie Smith was still around to teach me the ins and outs of Adobe InDesign and Photoshop, and since then, I've become familiar with Illustrator and other programs. All these skills have given me the kind of educational boost in terms of design and multimedia communication that I never dreamt I would have as a Political Science major. You don't have to know all of this to apply, you don't have to be a Communication major or GVC's protege to secure the job, and I think that is the best part of this process. Everyone who wants it can and should apply.

If that's not helpful or at all convincing, here's what some other media heads had to say.

Liz Downes, Pandora Editor:

"I love having the opportunity to get students excited about Pandora and to see it from the initial idea through to the finished product. I also love having a real voice on the media committee and knowing that my ideas are being heard by 'the powers that be.' I love the fact that being a media head allows me the opportunity to make Centenary take notice of Pandora."

Stacy Whitmer, Yoncopin Editor:

"I don't know if I can only use just a few lines to explain how much I do like being a media head.

Let me start with why I even applied. My good friend, Jon Schleuss, told me to apply because he thought I would do good with it. I really think he was just saying that because no one else had applied for Yoncopin Editor. Nonetheless, it has been the most beneficial thing to me here at Centenary because it has taught me so much. It is like 3 or 4 classes put together, but still fun and entertaining, to me at least. It has taught me to manage my time (to the extreme), work with people, manage a schedule and budget, handle problems within a staff and even create a staff. I feel like my leadership skills have grown so much just from this job. I also have met so many new people and gotten to know many people just by interviewing them for articles, taking their picture, and going to events because I have to cover them for the yearbook. It has been a great experience. All the stress has paid off tremendously. I also have a great thing to put on my resume for my career ahead. I know how to work with the instruments in the media industry because of being in media here at Centenary and I continue to learn more about it."

Texas Hold 'Em Philanthropy Poker Tournament

April 12, 10:30 – until play ends
Centenary's Fitness Center
Cost: $10, including buy-in and lunch
Open to all: Centenary, Shreveport, and everyone else!
Raise money for the Nancy and Ronald Reagan Alzheimers

The Iota-Theta Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity will be holding its fourth annual Centenary World Series of Poker – a fundraising Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament – on April 12, 2008. Tau Kappa Epsilon will donate 100% of the proceeds from the event to the Ronald and Nancy Reagan Research Institute, which is part of the Alzheimer's Association.

Since 2001, Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity has raised more than $257,000 for the Institute, with hopes of reaching $300,000 with the help of its 268 collegiate chapters and colonies.

The members of Tau Kappa Epsilon will be holding the event at the Centenary Fitness Center. Registration will begin at 10:30, and play commences at Noon. Tickets cost $10 each, and can be bought before the event from any member of Tau Kappa Epsilon or at the door the day of the event. This includes buy-in, and lunch which will be catered by an area restaurant. For more information please contact Stephen Ling, Philanthropy chairman of Tau Kappa Epsilon, at sling@centenary.edu. Members of the Centenary and greater Shreveport communities are welcome to attend the event.

Tau Kappa Epsilon adopted the Ronald and Nancy Reagan Research Institute as an official philanthropy in honor of President Reagan who became a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon in 1929.

(Caution: real news, may cause allergic reaction - use protection)

KSCL Battle of the Bands rocks for the fifth year

Courtney Delaney
Layout Editor

On the morning of the 5th annual Battle of the Bands, KSCL staffers were looking to the sky and weather reports, crossing their fingers that it wouldn't rain. The situation didn't look promising. Yet as soon as the first band, Dark Pop Project, started playing, the heavens opened and the sun shone brightly for the rest of the day. It was as if the gods of rock themselves gave KSCL their blessing.

The rest of the event went off without a hitch. The Shell was littered with people from all over Shreveport, including everyone from old-school rockers to high school hipsters. Staffers, clad in black KSCL shirts, twittered about the Shell, taking pictures, selling baked goods and raffle tickets, and hanging out with their friends. Even Centenary's new mascot, the Catahoula, made an appearance wearing a KSCL shirt in support of the station.

The first place winners, The Peekers, were awarded $300 and a brand new guitar. Robert Trudeau, of the popular blog "Trudeau on Shreveport," claimed the band as "one of Shreveport's most popular gang of groovies." The Situation came in second, winning a prize of $150, and Missoni Lanza, earning third place, pocketed $50. Other participants included 6 Pack Deep, The Dark Pop Project, And Wellington, Chris James, and Midwest Caravan.

LSUS basketball coach falls short of Centenary's open arms

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

The offer was on the table, but no deals were made. LSUS's record-breaking coach Chad McDowell announced last Thursday that he would keep his ground and stay at the winning program he had developed over the past five years. In addition, he will be serving as Assistant Athletic Director for the school alongside current program Director Doug Robinson.

According to the Shreveport Times, McDowell said, "I woke up (Thursday) morning, and there was this peace that this is home." he said. "This is home. This is where the support is. I feel at peace here."

Centenary Athletic Director Tom Tallach discussed the options with Coach McDowell for almost five hours. McDowell appreciated the offer and noted that the opportunity for a promotion would be hard to pass in the scenario offered by Tallach.

McDowell has established the best winning percentage in any Louisiana collegiate program, holding a record of 132-36 with the LSUS Pilots.

The Centenary search for a men's basketball coach still continues as more interviewees are being looked at. Until then, be on the lookout for more breaking news and coverage of your Centenary Gents basketball at www.theccconglomerate.com.

Duvall's
798-JUMP

Photos of the BIG Event on Saturday, March 29 by Mindy McKoin.

Centenary gives back to the community during the BIG Event on Saturday

Centenary News Service

Their group consisted of only five people, but they had to be one of the most diverse that participated in Centenary College's first BIG Event.

Centenary College senior Megan Ottesen and freshman Meg Shanks teamed up with exchange students Laetitia Caloone, who is French, Maya Trinkjaer, who is Danish, and Vanisa Tang, who is from Hong Kong, to do some yard work on Highland Avenue.

They were among more than 300 people from the private Shreveport school who took part in the community service project Saturday in the city's Highland neighborhood.

People from the community submitted requests to the college for help with household tasks like scraping and repainting shutters, raking, weeding, yard work, picking up trash, cleaning sidewalks, etc.

Volunteer teams then canvassed the neighborhoods and completed all the jobs. Each volunteer received a T-shirt, a bottle of water and snack.

"We raked a bunch of leaves and cleaned the dirt out of the street," said Otteson.

It was nice being able to get out and give something back to the community, she said.

"This gives me something to do on Saturday. It's better than sleeping in."

Club in the SUB

Photos by Mindy McKoin

Top left: Sophomore Colin Miller and Freshman Cazes Verbois hang out for some alcohol awareness.

Top right: RAs Todd Johnson, Kyle McGimsey, and Ashlety Sholar get cozy in the SUB.

Middle: Suneera Kompelli and Jason Kay are watching the door and giving out raffle tickets.

Bottom: Students enjoy Club in the SUB.

Club in the SUB was sponsored by Res Life and attended by 153 students.

(Caution: real news, may cause allergic reaction - use protection)

Voting for SGA Executive Council positions starts next week!

Vote on next year's SGA

President;
Vice President
of Internal Affairs;
Vice President
of External Affairs;
Treasurer;
Secretary

Visit
https://secure.centenary.edu/voting

Attaway Fellow's "Mormons in America" lecture series continues this weekend

Centenary News Service

Richard Lyman Bushman, Ph.D., accomplished author and one of the nation's foremost scholars in American culture and religious history, finishes his series of public talks as Centenary College's Attaway Fellow in Civic Culture this weekend.

"Mormons in America" has allowed those in attendance the opportunity to examine one of the least understood denominations—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Regarded as one of the leading historian's of Mormonism, Dr. Bushman will discuss the practices and theology of one of the fastest growing major denominations in the United States; a church with nearly 13 million followers worldwide.

Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Hurley School of Music, room 201, Centenary College campus

"Can Mormons Join the Conversation?"(Registration is required. Call 318.869.5156 for more information).

9 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m. Session I, "From Debate to Dialogue"
10:45 a.m. Session II, "Talking Frankly About Doubts, Suspicions and Queries"
1:15 P.M. Panel Discussion
3:30 p.m. Wrap-up

Sunday, April 6, 6 p.m., Fireside Message

"Joseph's Relationship with God" (Held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 200 Carroll Street, Shreveport, 318.868.3380)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ben Folds, Opera Workshop, and more

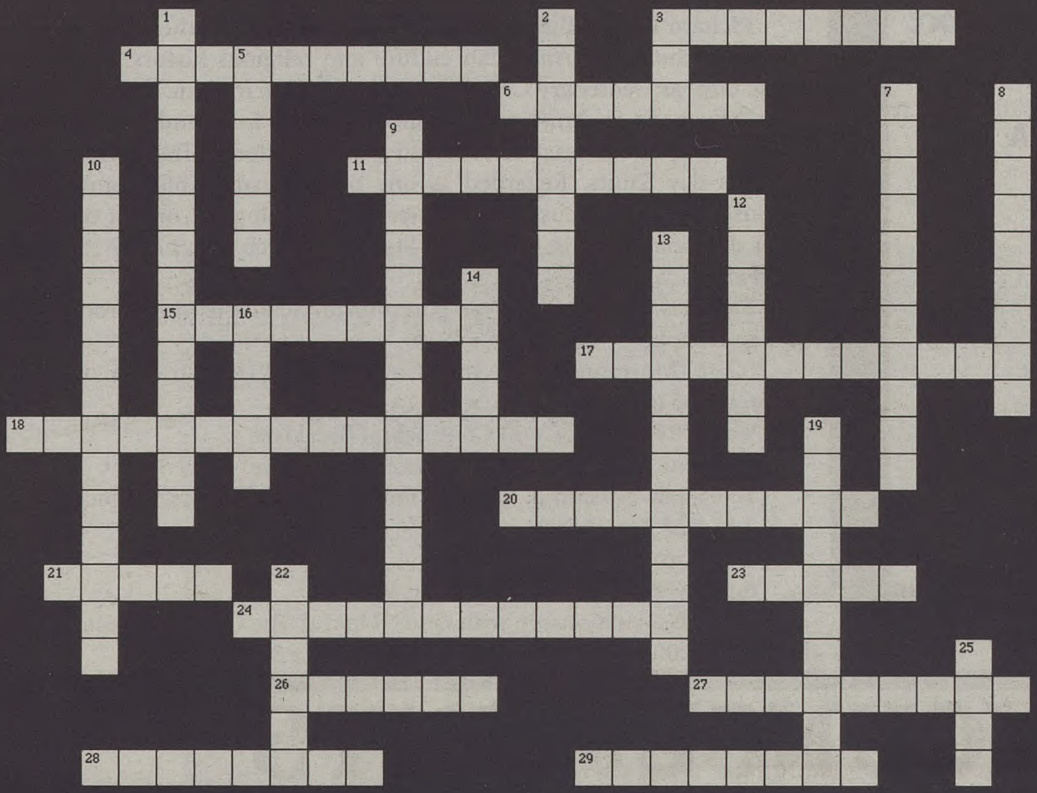
Ben Folds will take the stage at the Gold Dome tonight courtesy of Fighting Squirrels Productions. Eef Barzelay opens for Folds. FSP President said at press time that tickets are still available, though sales have been in the triple digits. Tickets can still be purchased at the Admissions or Student Life Office - $15 for students, $20 for non-students. Tickets will be sold at the door starting at 5:00 p.m., but will cost $20 for everyone. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., concert starts at 8:00 p.m.

The Hurley School of Music Opera Workshop's semester-long work culminates in performances of "The Mikado" tonight and tomorrow night in Anderson Auditorium. This famous comic opera by Gilbert and Sullivan is a story of hopeless and hapless love. The performances take place at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday night (April 4 and 5) and are free and open to the public.

The Leading Ladies Dance Team will hold try outs tomorrow at 2:30 p.m. for 2008-2009 members. Leading Lady Katy Woodward welcomes "any and all interested dancers" to come to the Fitness Center Dance Studio for try outs. "Wear comfortable dance clothes and shoes, demonstrate leaps, turns, kicks, and skills of your choice, and bring a video/DVD of 1-2 minutes of dance or music and we'll record you at try-outs," she advised. "You will not learn a routine at try outs, so it is important to prepare a routine for Saturday. Leading Ladies are looking forward to adding enthusiastic members to their team. Dancers will have the opportunity to dance at home basketball games and travel to the Summit League Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Uniforms are provided at no cost, all you need is a positive attitude!"

Up Til Dawn, the collegiate fundraising organization for St. Jude's Hospital, is now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 Executive Board. Applications are available upon request (mwalter@centenary.edu) and at the student info desk in the SUB and are due on April 13. The positions include Executive Director, Recruitment Chairperson, Sponsorship Chairperson, PR Chairperson, Entertainment Chairperson, and Logistics Chairperson.

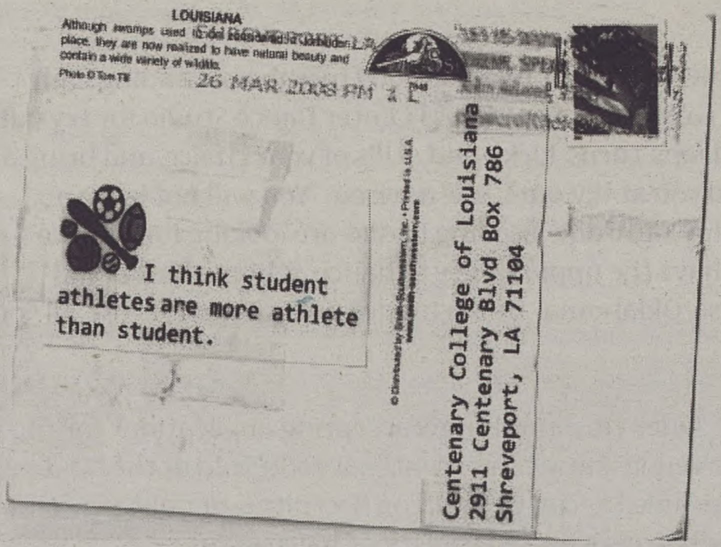
CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS
3 Blue Bell Ice cream
4 Inigo Montoya
6 Millennium Falcon
11 Dip ‘n Dots
15 Napoleon Bonaparte
17 Ethan Hunt
18 Mount Rushmore
20 Judgement Day
21 Redboook and Ginger Ale
23 Frank Abagnale Jr.
24 Nokia
26 Hiroshima
27 Bogalusa
28 Henry VIII
29 Firefox

DOWN
1 Pollock
2 Herbie
3 Mordor
5 Julius Caesar
7 Mount Kilimanjaro
8 Captain Jack Sparrow
9 Nintendo
10 John McClane
12 Chopin
13 Dreyers
14 Camp Ozark
16 George Washington
19 Zombies
22 Condoleezza Rice
25 Biscuits

Centenary Secrets



LOUISIANA
Although swamps used [illegible] place, they are now realized to have natural beauty and contain a wide variety of wildlife.
Photo © Tom Till

26 MAR 2008 PM 1 L

I think student athletes are more athlete than student.

Centenary College of Louisiana
2911 Centenary Blvd Box 786
Shreveport, LA 71104

In order to participate, take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box 786 or slip it under the Conglomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.

Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/20) Holding your breath may turn you blue and eventually cause you to pass out, but at least you will have made your point.

Taurus (4/21-5/21) Frolic through a field of daisies, blah, blah, blah. I’m not one for writing happy horoscopes.

Gemini (5/22- 6/21) Forget about graduating, the real task is surving the next month without getting some crazy disease from all these damn mosquitoes. Seriously!

Cancer (6/22-7/23) Rhagen Russell is in love with you, she has pictures of you tacked above your bed and she wrote you a love poem. It’s actually quite good, have her read it to you sometime.

Leo (7/24-8/23) I don’t like you, therefore I will not be writing a horoscope for you. Why? Because I don’t waste my time with people who can’t snap.

Virgo (8/24-9/23) You are Romeo, Libra is Juliet. Stay away from poison and daggers, you guys wouldn’t have worked out anyway. I promise.

Libra (9/24) If you often find yourself wondering who writes these horoscopes, you are a very curious cat. But you will never know because these horoscopes are written by a supreme being that posesses the mind and body of one of the Conglomerate staff every Wednesday night.

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) Feeling lonely? Look on the next page, there are some stellar relationship prospects out there.

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) Don’t believe people when they tell you that you are capable of anything. Are you capable of flying? I think not.

Capricorn (12/22-1/20) Clip, clip. It’s time for a haircut. Out with the fugly, in with the less fugly.

Aquarius (1/21-2/19) What could go wrong?

Pisces (2/20-3/20) Ever think you have too much on your plate? No problem, just feed it to the dog under the table.

Ups and Downs

↑ **Battle of the Bands**
For rocking.
Congratulations to the Peekers!

↑ **Club in the SUB**
For keeping us aware of alcohol and getting 150+ students in one place.

↓ **Conglomerate Staff**
For being so productive that we no longer have any money. (Large, frequent issues cost big!)

↑ **The BIG Event**
For giving aid to members of the Highland Community.

↓ **Facilities**
For not allowing the International Society for Cultural Awareness to put on its paint-throwing program and Hindu festival of color, Holi.

↓ **Administration**
For not sending students information on the WEQ proposals until two days before the deadline.

Singles Ads

Finding "The One" has never been so sleazy

Male seeking Female who will do his laundry, cook his meals, and file his taxes. Basically, this loser is asking if his mother will let him move back in.

Female seeking Male who will be willing to raise her five fatherless children while she pursues a career in erotic dancing.

Male seeking Female to accompany him to a Sci Fi convention in May. Preferably Princess Leia or Hayden Pantierre. Must love Wookies.

Female seeking Female who shares her love for Olivia Newton John, Catherine Zeta Jones, and kitty cats.

Male seeking Male who does not love Olivia Newton John, Catherine Zeta Jones, and kitty cats.

Male seeking Male who has unlimited texting and free nights and weekends.

Politician seeking Prostitute who has strong morals and puts relationships before money.

Female seeking Male that doesn't mind that she is living with her ex-boyfriend...and still sleeping in the same bed.

Male seeking Female who enjoys long walks on the beach, love poetry, and wearing women's undergarments as much as he does.

Female seeking Sperm Donor, preferably a doctor, lawyer, or astronaut.

Gold-digger seeking Elderly Billionaire who is without disgruntled family members and some form of heart condition.

Female seeking Female without STDs and/or in possession of a toaster oven.

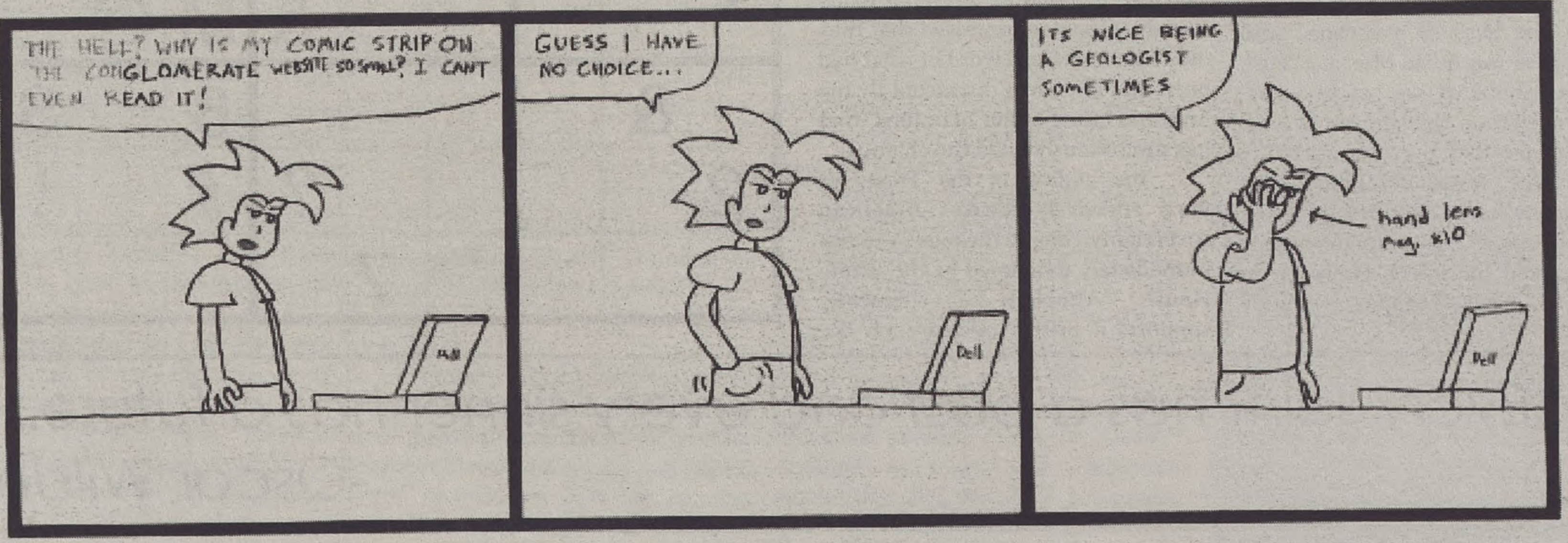
Male seeking Female who will walk all over him, break his heart, and leave him for his best friend.

Male seeking Male who enjoys polka music and dots.

Cat seeking Dog who is willing to put their differences aside.

A Day with Christ

Chris "Jesus" Christ


THE HELL? WHY IS MY COMIC STRIP ON THE CONGLOMERATE WEBSITE SO SMALL? I CANT EVEN READ IT!
Dell
GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE...
Dell
ITS NICE BEING A GEOLOGIST SOMETIMES
hand lens mag. x10
Dell

General election cancelled as U.S. surrenders to British rule

Jonny English, 006.9
Contributing Writer

John McCain will be officially inaugurated as Governor of the Territory of North America this coming January 2009 as the former United States of America are reabsorbed into the New British Empire, it was announced today by a special delegation from Her Majesty Queen Elisabeth II. The news was welcomed by world leaders and religious figureheads far and wide as a "long needed solution to the ills of the world."

McCain will be knighted by Her Majesty this July 4 in a ceremony said to be "one of the most significant historical events of the 21st century so far." The news comes as a surprise to many American citizens who were apparently kept in the dark about the plans by the current administration. When pressed for comments, a spokesperson from the White House this afternoon said "La la la la, lalala, la la la la la" while covering his ears.

Plans for the changes were tabled apparently just a month ago, when it was noted by the International Herald Tribune that "the American general elections are far too important to the rest of the world to be left in the hands of the American electorate." The statement echoed calls from many nations to give citizens of every country in the world the right to vote in the U.S. elections, given the country's insistence in interfering with world affairs.

"The outcome of the election affects the lives of everyone," said Kazakh car mechanic Mustafa Pepsi, "so why shouldn't we get to vote?" It is understood that the sheer level of influence that the U.S. currently has in the world combined with what many have described as "gross incompetence" in foreign policy has sparked the move. However, in an ironic twist, it appears nobody will be voting in the elections - the Democratic Party is to be dissolved by Her Majesty's Government on the orders of Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh. The prince, who once controversially told British students in China that they "would turn slitty-eyed if [they] stayed there much longer," is said to be anxious about not being able to find Barack Obama in the dark.

The only other presidential candidate, Ralph Nader, was mysteriously killed last night in a freak car crash in Paris, leaving McCain as the only candidate for the position of Governor.

Plans for the reintroduction of British rule in North America were first leaked just last week, when French President Nicolas Sarkozy made his state visit to Britain. Advocating a new era of stronger relations between Britain and France, Sarkozy expressed his admiration for the British, their sense of self-superiority and natural talent for subjugating other countries. In a speech to the British Parliament, the French President revealed that the Treaty of Paris, signed in 1783 and recognising the sovereignty of the United States, would be torn up.

"To be fair," said Sarkozy, "ze American Revolutionary War was won on a technicality…ze Breeteesh were winning ze war until ze rest of ze world declared war on zem. Ze Breeteesh were fighting ze Americans, La France, ze Spanish, ze Dutch, ze Irish and ze Scottish, all at ze same time." The president received rapturous applause in London, although many British MPs later confessed that they didn't understand a word of what had been said and were distracted by the "overwhelming odour of onions" that has mysteriously filled the chamber.

The ending of the Treaty of Paris effectively revokes American sovereignty, though the move was not immediately welcomed by the White House. Although he vehemently supports a British offensive on the U.S., President Sarkozy was unwilling to commit French troops to the campaign. Fearing a bloodbath on U.S. soil, it was diplomatically agreed by Westminster and U.S. officials that the dispute would be settled by a small skirmish between British Special Air Service commandos and U.S. Marines in the Utah desert. Although hopelessly outnumbered, the British reportedly won the battle by simply turning up late – by which point all the American troops had accidentally shot each other in friendly fire.

Violence in Iraq is said to have ceased suddenly last night as the news filtered through. Insurgents, apparently fearing the iron fist of British rule, cheerily settled their differences in emergency negotiations while graffiti has appeared around central Baghdad displaying the message "Water boarding is for Girls."

Among the changes to be implemented within the U.S. are plans for education reform. "All American children will be taught to spell and pronounce words correctly," said a British official in a post on www.groundstate.ca, while "as a sign of penance, five grams of sea salt per cup will be added to all tea made within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, this quantity to be doubled for tea made within the city of Boston itself."

Sudoku

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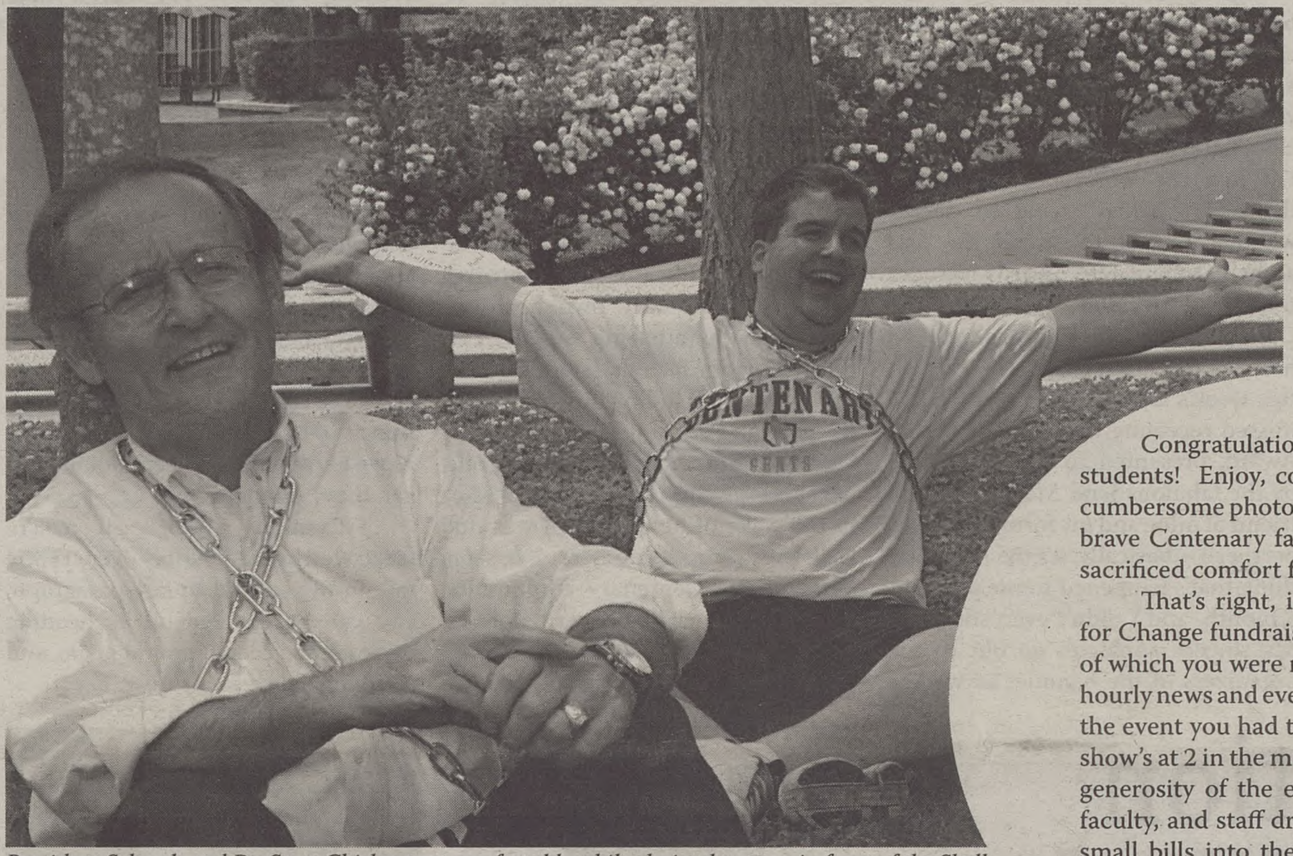
> *"Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future."*
> *-Oscar Wilde*

The CONGLOMERATE

April 25, 2008 *Centenary College of Louisiana's Weekly Independent Press* Volume 84, Issue 24



President Schwab and Dr. Scott Chirhart get comfortable while chained to trees in front of the Shell for Earth Day. Photo courtesy of Sherry Heflin and Rick Delahaya.

Chains for Change

Parker Jarnigan
Contributing Writer

Congratulations, planet Earth! Hooray, Centenary students! Enjoy, construction workers who will install the cumbersome photovoltaic panels. And of course, Godspeed, brave Centenary faculty and staff who upped the ante and sacrificed comfort for the greater good.

That's right, if you haven't already heard, the Chains for Change fundraiser has finally met its goal. The initiative of which you were no doubt constantly reminded by KSCL's hourly news and events announcements (or in the case of DJs, the event you had to read every half hour even though your show's at 2 in the morning) has come to a close, thanks to the generosity of the entire Centenary community. Students, faculty, and staff dropped over $1,200 in coins, checks, and small bills into the iconic collection boxes created by the Centenary Environmental Association. Acting on behalf of the students (as it aptly does each Tuesday night at 8), last month the SGA agreed to match the amount raised in order to cover the cost of four solar-panels to be placed on the roof of John F. Magale Memorial Library.

To entice students to donate, President Ken Schwab, Director of Housing and Residence Life Mr. Kevin Wagner, Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Scott Chirhart, and Assistant Professor of English Dr. Jeanne Hamming all promised to chain themselves to trees as an homage to the tree-hugger tradition. Well, to the delight of disgruntled comparative anatomy students, ticked off ETC students who can't figure out how to work the wiki, and all freshman males who have no other choice but to live in Cline, that day finally came. On Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22, members of the CEA and Chemistry Club were on hand to conduct the chaining at high noon. The materials: four strapping Ginkgo trees and 50 pounds of rusty chains. Don't worry, there weren't any bulldozers or venture capitalists threatening to tear down our beautiful trees, but students were able to view the chaining and take pictures with their favorite collegiate president.

Before and afterward, numerous other activities took place by the caf in celebration of Earth Day, including a stuff swap, decorating canvas bags, and a visit from our owl friends.

Finally, in case you still have no idea what this is all about, a while back the CEA and Chem Club teamed up

continued on page 3

Centenary Gymnasts win big at national competition

Centenary Sports Information

SHREVEPORT—The Centenary gymnastics team finished its season last Friday, but six Ladies advanced to the individual event finals at the USA Gymnastics Collegiate National Championships on Saturday. Sophomore Courtney Hawkins emerged as the Floor Exercise National Champion, while senior Meredith Smith narrowly missed collecting the second title of her career.

Hawkins bounced back after an upsetting performance on the vault earlier in the competition to score a 9.875 on the floor exercise to claim the title. Hawkins was the final competitor on the event and bested Annuka Almenoksa's effort of 9.850.

On the vault, Hawkins threw up an impressive score on the first run, but in the event finals the gymnasts must complete two vaults. The average score of the two vaults becomes the official score.

continued on page 3

INSIDE

Yale student stirs up controversy with scandalous art show on page 8

Interview with Tom Tallach on new men's basketball coach on page 12

Jazz Fest commences this weekend - get tips from a veteran on page 16

Letter from the editor: A lesson in silver lining

Versha Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

No, it's not normal for The Conglomerate to take a two-week printing hiatus toward the end of the semester (though we have kept the website updated). Check out the back page for details on our unfortunate budget constraints that stopped our full-steam-ahead productivity this year (and please accept my apologies).

I've been forced to do a lot of optimistic thinking these last few weeks – harder than it sounds, take my word for it. I can't say it's always worked when I needed it to, but I'm getting there. To make a long story short, I turned my senior seminar paper in late, too late to be acceptable to the Political Science department (my major), and I'll have to redo the course in the summer. Subsequently, I won't be able to graduate with my classmates on May 10 (also my 22nd birthday) and I won't finish my degree until July 2.

I know it's not the end of the world, not being able to finish college within four years, but it is a bit of a shock to realize the lasting consequences of your actions just a few weeks before you thought you were going to walk with your classmates. I'm trying to accept that I'm just the worst decision-maker there is – when trying to decide whether or not to attend the first annual Student Life Awards banquet tonight, I decided to stay in the Conglomerate office in order to do homework and get an early start on this week's layout. As it turns out, I missed receiving the Campus Media Award, presented to the absent me by the fabulous Jenn Majchrowicz (a friend of mine and my former doubles partner!) – basically, it's the one good thing that's happened to me in about a month, and I didn't even show up. My sincere apologies go out to the organizers of the banquet as well as my gratitude for giving me such an award – it means so much to know that the work I put into this paper, which I adore, is enjoyed by others.

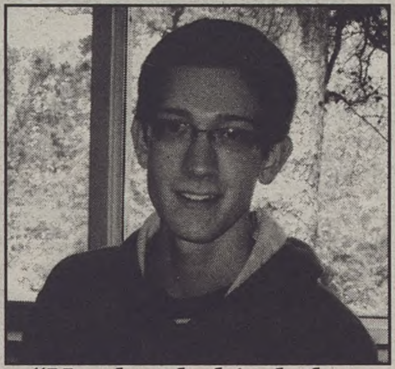
Lest I sound too cheesy or whiny, there have been personal impediments to my academics that are probably not suitable for newsprint – just as there are recent events at Centenary that have caused obstacles for many people but are too sensitive to openly discuss right now. The truly important aspect of finding a silver lining is that it's absolutely integral to moving on. My own positives have been the amazing support I've received from friends (students and professors), including my very first meeting and ensuing friendship with Dr. Susan Brayford (I'll be taking one of her classes this summer!). Likewise, in the wake of news that all was not well with campus life here, I've seen parts of the Centenary community coming together like never before to form an important support network. The situation isn't perfect – I don't think the administration and DPS are communicating with students as best they should, and I know others who feel the same way – but it can certainly improve. For such a small college, unity is paramount to comfort and success, and the students are definitely looking out for each other.

So – if it's just the stress of the end of the semester, looming final projects and exams, if you're grappling with your own personal demons, if you're a senior worried about life beyond the graduation horizon (lucky…), or if you have been unfortunately affected by campus events, just remember – there's always a silver lining. It may be so thin as to be unnoticeable, but as long as we persevere and keep looking, we can move on.

(Example given: if you're frustrated by the possibly over cryptic talk in my second to last paragraph, you can be cheered up by heading to www.thecccconglomerate.com and anonymously complaining. See?)

Question of the Week

WHAT NEW AWARD SHOULD CENTENARY ADD TO ITS LIST FOR HONORS CONVOCATION?


"Hardest behind-the-scenes worker."
-Andy Osborn,
Sophomore

"Most likely MILF."
-Anna Andreen,
Freshman

"Coolest BAMF ever."
-Leslie Williams,
Freshman

"Most Sane award."
-Marissa Torrez,
Junior

"Apathetic award."
-Mary Ham,
Senior

"Earliest Gay-by-May award."
-Nicole Popp,
Freshman

FEATURES

Continued from front page: Chains for Change

to buy four solar panels in an effort to reduce the College's impact on the environment. Not only will the energy collected and stored by the panels stroke the back of the financial kitty in Hamilton and make the hippies flock to Centenary in hemp-laden droves, but science students will use the panels as an educational tool, employing complex equations that would set this paper on fire if printed to determine the optimum sun-soaking position for the panels throughout the day. Also, the panels are fully upgradeable should the College decide to keep up the green initiative later on down the road (more on that in ten years).

Thanks again to all who donated and helped out with collection, and a special thanks to our four tree-huggers!

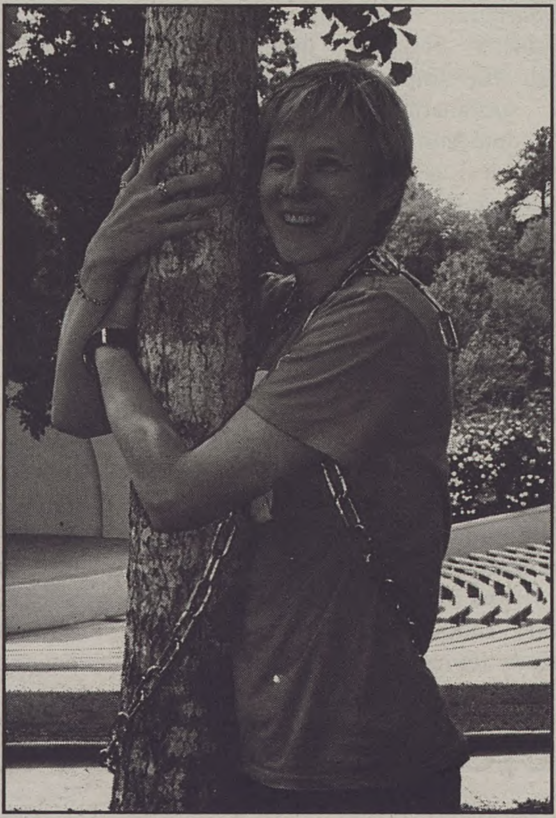
Parker Jarnigan is a member of the Centenary Environmental Association.

Additional information compiled by Versha Sharma:

Only at Centenary: Senior Emily Waggenspack coaxed her professors to pose like their favorite animals for photographs, inciting awkward maneuvering around chains, while Dr. Chirhart ribbed President Schwab for talking on his cell phone while being tied to a tree ("he's still taking care of business!" said one onlooker). The four tree-huggers were all good-natured about their hour-long plight on Tuesday, getting their dressy pants dirty by sitting on the ground and taking all forms of teasing from the crowd surrounding them (the teasers included students, faculty, and staff alike). Dr. Hamming and Dr. Chirhart joked – or maybe were seriously discussing – dying their hair green for a month next year to raise even more awareness and money for solar panels and other environmental causes, to which Kevin Wagner responded that he would dye his goatee (The Conglomerate can neither confirm nor deny the truth of this, but the comments were said). Here's what else they had to say while chained:

Dr. Scott Chirhart, when asked what it's like to be chained to a tree: "It kind of feels like being chained to a tree. We're here to raise awareness on the whole idea of being green, and getting a few solar panels – it's a start. SGA was awesome to match [the funds raised by students], and I know lots of professors contributed. I figured [the $1200 goal] was going to happen."

Mr. Kevin Wagner: "It's for a good cause – to bring awareness to environmental issues. We may be a small campus, but we need to consider the environment around us. It was the right thing to do, and we came in with more than enough [money]. It's all in good fun."



Dr. Jeanne Hamming embraces a tree on Earth Day. Photo courtesy of Sherry Heflin and Rick Delahaya.

Continued: Centenary Gymnasts win big at national competition

Hawkins missed her mark on her cartwheel prior to hitting the spring board, which launched her over the side of the vault. Despite what looked like a dangerous landing, she hopped right up and was uninjured. However, her chances at winning a vault title were gone.

Smith brought the Ladies spirit right back after sticking her first vault. On her second vault, the Ladies lone senior went for the title, but could not hold her landing. As a result, she was forced to take a few steps to steady herself. The deductions for the extra steps would cost her the title, but she still finished in second place with a 9.737, just .05 behind Alise McDonald of Towson. Smith won the vault title in 2006.

Centenary's lone representative on the bars, junior Julia Cornelius, put up a solid routine. She scored a 9.700 to tie for sixth.

On the floor, the Ladies had two more gymnasts advance to the finals in addition to Hawkins. Freshman Marisa Schneider placed fourth with a score of 9.800 and sophomore Whitney Daugherty took seventh place with a 9.750.

Freshman Laura Loy competed on the beam for Centenary, but did not fare well on Saturday. Unarguably the Ladies best beam worker on the season, the newcomer fell twice and placed 10th on the event.

All six Ladies that competed in the event finals earned first team USAG All-American honors for each event they participated in. Smith also received second team accolades on the floor exercise.

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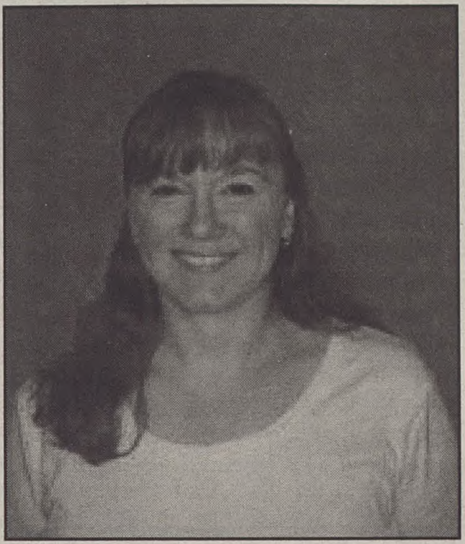
Political Science Department hires first female professor

Amanda Russell
Staff Writer

The search for the new Assistant Professor of Political Science with a focus in Comparative Politics and International Relations is finally over! Dr. Gloria Walker, currently a lecturer at the University of California-Davis, where she also received her Ph.D., has accepted the department's and the Provost's offers to join the Centenary faculty in Fall 2008. Dr. Walker will be the first female Political Science professor in Centenary's history. She will replace current Assistant Professor of Political Science, Dr. Philip Barker, who will join the faculty at Austin College in Sherman, Texas, this fall.

Dr. Walker completed her Ph.D. in March of 2006. Her research is entitled "Connections Matter: The Domestic Impact of Intergovernmental Organization Membership." This work is concerned with identifying the ways that external factors (membership in an intergovernmental organization) affect the politics of a country and its level of democracy, corruption, and human rights abuse. As her dissertation demonstrates, Dr. Walker's research interests lie with the impact of international or supranational institutions in the domestic politics of European countries, as well as their political development, the politics of Europe, and the consolidation or "deepening" of democracy.

Members and students of the department are much relieved that the long search and the interview process are over. While disappointed about the departure of Dr. Barker, students in the department are excited about the new and exciting courses that Dr. Walker may develop. "I'm looking forward to hearing her lecture," said freshman William Takewell. "She did a great job during her research presentation."



Seniors Megan Ottesen and Andrew Deas were also pleased with the way she connected with students during a luncheon. "She was very concerned with learning about what we were interested in as well as with conveying her researching interests to us," said Deas.

Diversity at Centenary: committee seeks to change the status quo

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Just by looking around, it is easy to see that this campus is not physically indicative of the real world in which we live. There is grass, dirt, and buildings like in the rest of the world, but the Centenary College community lacks a certain element that would make it a better institution of higher learning. That missing component is diversity. The incorporation of diversity in the classroom and the extracurricular environment would make a Centenary graduate a well-rounded individual.

The Diversity Committee meets every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. in the faculty lounge. It was established to assess and change the norm of the Centenary experience. Though the committee is in its beginning stages and knows that changes will not occur overnight, it is determined to not be a run-of-the-mill organization full of empty promises and unattainable aspirations.

On April 26, 2008, invited Centenary faculty, staff, and students will attend the Welcoming Diversity / Prejudice Reduction workshop. The workshop is the first step toward valuing diversity on campus, but the committee will not stop there. This workshop is just the beginning, something to get the Diversity Committee started on introducing programs that will give everyone a better Centenary College.

Students elect new SGA Executive Council

Amanda Russell
Courtney Delaney
Staff Writers

Voting for Student Government Association Executive Council positions started Tuesday April 8 online. The polls were closed April 11, and the winners were announced via email to the entire campus recently. Several EC positions were uncontested, which was not surprising.

The only contested SGA EC position was President. The candidates for President were junior Corey Shadd and sophomore Matthew Wallace. While it was announced Friday, April 9, that Shadd won the election, both had proven themselves viable and enthusiastic candidates for the position.

The new Vice-President of Internal Affairs is junior Emma Cook (VPIA). Cook is in charge of all SGA-related elections and Homecoming elections. In addition to those responsibilities, Cook oversees the SGA Constitution and By-Laws and ensures proper parliamentary procedure is followed during SGA meetings.

The new Vice-President of External Affairs is senior Marcus Jauregui. Jauregui's position is most well-known for its responsibilities for planning student Homecoming events, but the VPEA is also responsible for overseeing all SGA-chartered organizations on Centenary's campus.

The new SGA Treasurer is junior Sam Timpa. Timpa is in charge of managing the SGA resolutions and office budgets as well as making sure organizations and students requesting funds from the SGA receive their checks through the business office.

The new SGA Secretary is freshman William Takewell. Takewell is responsible for typing minutes during meetings and organizing and emailing out all minutes, agendas, and resolutions to the Senate prior to each Tuesday night meeting.

An SGA election forum was held on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Centenary room prior to the SGA meeting for students interested in hearing each candidate's platform. No students besides SGA senators and EC members attended (not shocking). A few highlights of the forum included some possible ideas that may or may not be implemented next year. Future VPEA Jauregui spoke of a possible creation of a 'Congress of Student Organizations' and a three-choice plan for Homecoming next year. Future Treasurer Timpa spoke of office supplies and Excel spreadsheets. Presidential candidates also had some interesting ideas for next year. Wallace spoke of creating SGA Presidential office hours which would ensure that students had access to him during a scheduled time. Shadd spoke of his desire to see the SGA become more service-oriented and make sure that its role is constantly to serve the students and their needs.

Greek honor society inducts new members

Amanda Russell
Staff Writer

In addition to the many subject-specific academic honor societies on Centenary's campus, several others exist, one of which is the national Greek honor society Order of Omega. The Order of Omega was founded in 1959 at the University of Miami in order to recognize individuals from the Greek community for their service to the fraternity system and the university. Last spring, the Centenary chapter of the Order of Omega was revived on Centenary's campus by Dean of Students Lori Bradshaw and 30 members were inducted.

This year Centenary's Order of Omega welcomed 14 new members to its ranks: Marco Rajo, Kelsey McConnell, Katie Matza, Lizzie Lyles, Kim Holly, Kyle Hilliard, Caitlin Hogan, Beth Geis, John Hafer, Danielle Dupree, Daniel Gehrig, Jessica Cosenza, Allison Cormier, and Nicole Clifton. The ceremony was held in the Whited Room of Bynum Commons last Monday at 7:00 p.m.

In addition to recognizing outstanding academic achievement by members of the Greek community, the Order of Omega also hosted the annual Greek Awards at 7:00 p.m. on April 22 at Shreveport's Municipal Auditorium. All members of Centenary's Greek community were invited to attend.

Pictured: The new members of Greek honor society Order of Omega (names listed in article). Photo courtesy of Amanda Russell.

Centenary Centennial Showcase takes place at Louisiana Boardwalk on Sunday, April 27

Centenary News Service

SHREVEPORT, La. — Centenary College continues their Centennial Celebration with a fun-filled day at the Louisiana Boardwalk Sunday, April 27 from 2 until 7 p.m.

During the Centennial Showcase, guests will have the opportunity to meet current students, faculty and staff, and learn more about the College. There will be a full schedule of events including performances by the Centenary Choir, Escaped Images Dance Company, and exhibitions by the women's gymnastics team.

Fun-filled events for the entire family will take place all day. Take part in the Future Alumni Parade, Egg Drop, math games, poetry readings and more. Kids can enjoy activities such as face painting, "Brain Works" and much more. Plus visitors will have the opportunity to meet Centenary's newest mascot, "Skeeter" from 3-5 p.m.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit http://www.centenary.edu/centennial.

Schedule of Events
2:30 p.m. Centenary College Choir
3:30 p.m. Centenary Future Alumni Parade
2 - 6 p.m. Hands on Science Exhibits: Neuroscience, Chemistry, Physics
Math Games, Poetry Readings
Fencing "Take a Stab at It!"
Gymnastics - Exhibition & Instruction
Basketball, Soccer, & Field Day Activities
Street Musicians
Escaped Images Dancing
Health Fair
5 p.m. Musical Theatre Review

Student Government Association

Minutes from the last SGA meeting of the school year, on April 15, 2008.

Resolution 0708_42 to charter the improvisation group Alan's Hot Tub at Centenary College of Louisiana was passed.

Resolution 0708_43 to support and endorse the proposed changes to the Centenary Plan that will be made possible by the implementation of the College's Quality Enhancement Plan was passed.

Resolution 0708_44 to allocate $1,500.00 each year for the next three years to assist the provost with the cost of the USA Today readership program was amended to include this in the by-laws under Resolutions allocations.

Resolution 0708_45 to change the VPIA's stipend from $700 to $600. Also, the VPEA's stipend increases from $700 to $800 per semester.

Media Percentages passed as follows: Conglomerate: 14.5%
KSCL: 15.5%
Yoncopin: 20%
Pandora: 10%
Film Society: 6.5%
FSP: 3%
SGA Office: 11%
SGA Resolutions: 19.5%

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Flying the friendly skies? Sorry, closed for maintenance

Many airlines close while Delta-Northwest make a massive merger

Kari Patterson
Circulation Manager

Planning on flying anywhere in the near future? Good luck with that. The airline industry has been in the news quite frequently over the past couple of weeks, with each story painting a subsequently worse picture of the business. For those of you who insist on driving wherever you travel and so pay no attention to the airline industry, allow me to summarize what has been going on: airlines have gone to shit. Honestly. If you're going abroad for your module this year, you should pay special attention; who knows, you might end up crossing the Atlantic (or Pacific, if you're one of those lucky, lucky people going to China) on a wing and a prayer. And I do mean that quite literally.

This is particularly true if you're flying American Airlines, which recently had to cancel around 3,300 flights over a five-day period to re-inspect and repair many of their planes for faulty wiring. Just imagine how much fun it would be to board your flight to Paris, only to be pulled off the runway at the last minute because there was a strong possibility that your flight would turn into a remake of the movie "Miracle Landing." (IMDb it, it's great). Sadly, American has not been the only airline to cancel flights due to maintenance issues. Trans States Airlines, a regional jet service that partners with American, United, and U.S. Air, also has cancelled nearly 100 flights in the past few days in order to make sure their planes were still in working order after discovering potential issues with instrumentation in their planes' noses. Just think about that the next time you're flying- it'll comfort you on your next transatlantic journey.

That is, of course, if you manage to get a pilot, as the Allied Pilots Association was picketing outside nine major airports in the U.S. and London on Tuesday. While they were protesting American Airlines' general crappiness, I'm pretty sure that it's not going to help the Association's complaints about too many cancelled flights when a bunch of pilots aren't available for flights because they're off picketing. But hey, what better way to draw attention to the valuable time and money that airlines are costing their customers? Because apparently airlines hide their inefficiencies so well that it takes picketing pilots to point them out to us; we obviously wouldn't spot them ourselves by, say, sitting in any airport in the country for more than five minutes.

In any case, you'll be selling your firstborn child to afford tickets, as a substantial increase in the price of oil (cue the extra "fuel surcharges") has also been accompanied by several of the "cheap" airlines going out of business. Skybus, Aloha Airlines, Skyway, Champion Air and ATA have all or are currently in the middle of filing for bankruptcy, sometimes abruptly shutting down and stranding passengers far from home with worthless tickets. Good job, guys. Skybus only lasted about 10 months, but while it lasted, it remained the hope of poor college students everywhere, allowing us, at least theoretically, to fly around the country without having to take out extra loans. Goodbye, Skybus, you will be sorely missed.

And there will probably be even fewer airlines for you to choose from in the very near future, as nearly every American-based airline is looking around to see which other airline it could possibly merge with. Delta and Northwest recently announced their merger on Monday, and it'll only be a matter of time before the other major airlines are jumping on board (ha, ha) the merger bandwagon to spawn the next generation of airlines. Just what they'll call them, though, remains to be seen, as pretty much every permutation of "The United States of America" has already been assigned to an airline. While "Derthwest" could be a cool name for an airline, I have no idea how to combine "U.S.," "United," and "American" into a new company name. "United AmericUS," perhaps?

Whatever they end up naming themselves, airlines need to seriously work on their PR and customer satisfaction levels if they intend to keep people flying with them. Or they could merge into one or two national airlines, leaving the public with no choice but to fly with them, and continuing to cancel flights, lose luggage, and direct passengers to call customer-service numbers staffed by rude non-English speakers, all with the knowledge that people will be forced to put up with whatever they dole out because they have a monopoly and there's nothing the public can do about it… but they'd never do that. After all, they're airlines, and there's nothing they'd rather do than help shepherd their valued customers to their final destinations with a smile. Just ask anyone who's ever flown anywhere, ever. They'll tell you all about it!

Celebrate Authors on Campus!

The Author's Reception is to be held at Magale Library, First Floor, on Wednesday, April 30, 2008 from 3-4:30PM.

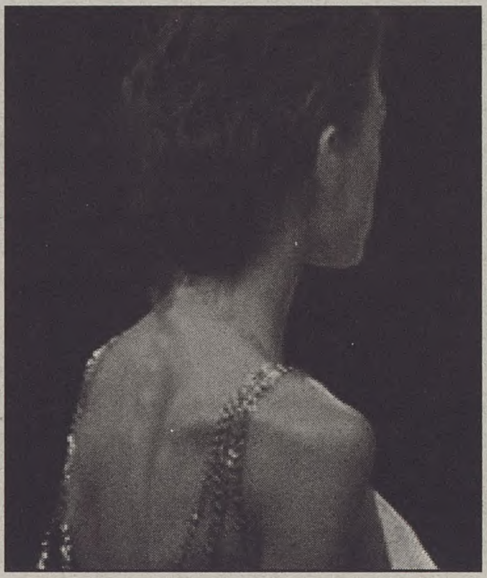
Come honor our professors/ writers: Dr. Aizawa, Dr. Brayford, David Bedard, Dr. Huff and Dr. Ed Leuck, see the rainbow of subjects they wrote about and help us eat cake.

France passes anti-anorexia law

Mary Wubbena
Contributing Writer

On Tuesday, April 15, French lawmakers began their attempts to stop anorexia. According to the New York Times, the lower chamber of the French Parliament passed a bill making it illegal for the media to promote eating disorders. Valerie Boyer, the lawmaker who sponsored the bill, said that she thought "it necessary to act" because "the sociocultural and media environment seems to favor the emergence of troubled nutritional behavior." CNN states that this bill is the "latest and strongest of measures proposed after the 2006 anorexia-linked death of a Brazilian model."

Other attempts have been made in countries such as Spain, which banned runwaymodels whose weight is below a certain BMI (body mass index). The New York Times wrote that France's bill "would make it illegal to 'provoke a person to seek excessive weight loss by encouraging prolonged nutritional deprivationthat would have an effect of exposing them to risk of death or endangering health.'" Punishments include both jail time and hefty fines of up to $71,000 or more. The Associated Press reported that the French Minister has "also suggested imposinglimits on the body mass index of models at French fashion shows."



Critics of the bill include the French Socialist Society, who think the bill is too vague, and the French Federation of Couture. According to CNN, Didier Grumbach, president of the French Federation of Couture, disapproves of the legislation and said that "never will we accept in our profession that a judge decides if a young girl is skinny or not skinny." Furthermore, others have questioned the effectiveness of the bill, as it will be difficult to prove the media's impact on eating disorders. The New York Times also noted the ambiguity of who will be blamed – the website creator or the internet provider.

Image credit: Associated Press.

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$4.00 Domestic pitchers, $5.00 Import Pitchers

'Abortion art' project of Yale student stirs national controversy

Mary Wubbena
Contributing Writer

So close, yet so far. That is probably how Aliza Shvarts, a Yale University undergraduate scheduled to graduate in 2008, feels right now concerning her senior art project. The Hartford Courant reported that last week, Shvarts told the press that she created her senior art project by artificially inseminating herself for nine months, inducing multiple miscarriages with abortifacients, and using the resulting blood, mixed with Vaseline, to create art by smearing it between sheets of plastic wrapped around a large cube.

Shvarts filmed the miscarriages and planned to project them onto the cube at the exhibit. According to the Yale Daily News, Shvarts wanted to "spark conversation and debate on the relationship between art and the human body." Shvarts said that "sure, some people will be upset with the message and will not agree with it, but it's not the intention of the piece to scandalize anyone."

The Yale administration was quick to respond, calling the work "creative fiction" and claiming she had admitted to them that she hadn't actually done it. The School of Art Dean, Robert Storr, stated that "this is not an acceptable project in a community where the consequences go beyond the individual who initiates the project and may even endanger that individual." According to Yale News, Storr also stated that while the university supports freedom of expression, it doesn't "believe that open discourse and inquiry can exist in an educational and creative community when an individual exercises these rights but evades full intellectual accountability for the strong response he or she ma provoke." Two professors have been disciplined for permitting this project to take place. Yale will not allow Shvarts to display her project unless she provides in writing a statement acknowledging the work is "fiction."

Shvarts, however, stands by her claim and says the assessment of her work as "creative fiction" is "ultimately inaccurate." In an op-ed piece for the Yale Daily News on Friday, April 18, 2008, Shvarts gave a detailed account of her experience, describing the exact procedure she followed to inseminate herself and then take an abortifacient to induce a miscarriage. In discussing the ambiguities of the project, Shvarts said, "Because the miscarriages coincide with the expected date of menstruation... The reality of the pregnancy, both for myself and for the audience, is a matter of reading."

Whatever the ambiguities, Shvarts' project was supposed to be displayed starting on Tuesday, April 22, 2008. However, Yale has stayed firm in its requirement that Shvarts rescind her claim, and, as of press time, the art project has not been displayed. The project, which has received national coverage, has been disavowed by pro-life and pro-choice organizations alike. Ted Miller, spokesman for NARAL Pro-Choice America, told the Yale News that "this 'project' is offensive and insensitive to the women who have suffered the heartbreak of miscarriage." Yale News also reports that National Right to Life Committee president Wanda Franz called Shartz a "serial killer" on Fox News.

Image credit of Shvarts: DiscoverMagazine.com.

A&E

FILM INDUSTRY LOCAL NEWS

Opening in theaters today:

"Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay," the sequel to "Harold and Kumar go to White Castle" - the second movie was filmed in Shreveport, Louisiana last year

Filming in the area:

(information from the Louisiana Office of Entertainment Industry Development; official hotline is 225-342-FILM, website is www.lafilm.org)

"Streets of Blood" (Millennium Films) starring Val Kilmer, 50 Cent, and Sharon Stone; begins filming in May

"W." starring Josh Brolin as President George W. Bush, directed by Oliver Stone; begins filming May 12

"Goodie Two Shoes" starring Carmen Elektra and Vanessa Minnillo in a spoofy comedy from the writers of "Scary Movie," "Epic Movie," and "Meet the Spartans"; begins filming April 28

"echoBOOM" is provocative and powerful

Editor's note: "echoBOOM" is unfortunately no longer playing at Marjorie Lyons, but The Conglomerate staff would like to extend its collective appreciation of the show to all involved and hope that future productions mirror this one.

Todd Johnson
A&E Editor

Writing a review for a play like "echoBOOM" is very difficult. I try to determine what was important, why it was important, and how it affected me as a member of the audience. Like any good piece of art, whether it is literary, film, painting, sculpture, or theatrical, your personal thoughts and feelings are brought to the forefront. Sometimes, you need time to reflect on the work. I have a feeling that I will be reflecting on "echoBOOM" long after the lights dimmed on the performance that I watched.

"echoBOOM" is a play based on "Antigone." However, unlike the Greek tragedy or the recent MLP production, this version takes place during and after a school shooting. Ash Greyson (Rachael Magill), the sister of the shooter Brody (Nate Wasson), tries desperately to make sense of the tragedy while also wanting to have her brother remembered as one of the 40+ victims of the tragedy. However, she is repeatedly halted in her attempts by her classmates and her boyfriend's father Edward (Stephen Scarlato), a man who is using the tragedy to fuel his attempts to run for the United States Senate. Everything that follows shows how a bad situation can only be made worse.

This play is disturbing, shocking, and powerful. It is also captivating, and even though I knew the end to "Antigone," I was still in suspense about how everything was going to be resolved by the end of the play.

The performances were uniformly strong, with not a single member of the cast giving a bad performance. You can tell that they are giving this play everything they have.

However, there are always standouts. For me, the standouts were definitely Rachael Magill as Ash, Stephen Scarlato as Edward Walter, Scott Gibbs as Edward's son and Ash's boyfriend Damien, and Destin Bass as a drug-using, foul-mouthed Jesus Christ (yes, you read that right). This talented group of actors was at the top of their game here. They made every powerful scene hit that much harder because of their fantastic performances.

The writing of the play was strong and thought-provoking. Everything that was said or mentioned resonated because this play seems to have its finger on the pulse of our generation, even if we don't realize it. There is the occasional trippy moment, but everything is brought together into a disillusioned and powerful whole.

Overall, this play is powerful and stimulating, and MLP is to be commended for ending the spring production season on just a strong note.

What's Happening on Campus

WHAT: Lori Lusted Senior Recital
WHEN: 7:30 pm, Friday, April 25
WHERE: Anderson Auditorium
COST: Free
CONTACT: Candy Maynard
cmaynard@centenary.edu
869.5235

WHAT: Spring Dance Concert
WHEN: 8 pm Friday, April 25
WHERE: Marjorie Lyons Playhouse
COST: Free: Tickets available at Marjorie Lyons Playhouse Box Office

WHAT: Escaped Images Dance Company in Concert
WHEN: 8 p.m. Saturday, April 26, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 27
WHERE: Marjorie Lyons Playhouse at Centenary College, 2911 Centenary Blvd., Shreveport
COST: $5, cash or check only.
CONTACT: 318.869.5242 for information. Box Office hours are noon to 4 p.m. daily.

WHAT: Brigham Young University Band Concert
WHEN: 4:00pm, Saturday April 26
WHERE: Anderson Auditorium
COST: Free, but tickets required. Tickets available at: Hurley 103
CONTACT: Candy Maynard
cmaynard@centenary.edu
869.5235

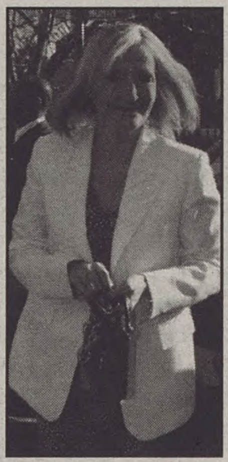
WHAT: Baroque Artists of Shreveport Concert
WHEN: 3 p.m. Sunday, April 27
WHERE: Anderson Auditorium
COST: Free
CONTACT: Candy Maynard
cmaynard@centenary.edu
869.5235

WHAT: Hurley Orchestra Concert
WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 28
WHERE: Anderson Auditorium
CONTACT: Candy Maynard
cmaynard@centenary.edu
869.5235

WHAT: Karen Massey Lecture Recital
WHEN: 7:30 pm Wednesday, April 30
WHERE:Anderson Auditorium
COST: Free
CONTACT: Candy Maynard
cmaynard@centenary.edu
869.5235

J. K. Rowling goes to court...again

Amanda Russell
Staff Writer



Considering how much time J. K. Rowling spends in court, she could very well be a lawyer. Her trial against RDR Books has forced her, and her beloved wizarding world, into the media spotlight once again.

It was first reported in October 2007 by The-Leaky-Cauldron.org, a Harry Potter fan website, that author J. K. Rowling and Warner Brothers filed suit against the publication of an unofficial encyclopedia based on the Harry Potter characters. "The Harry Potter Lexicon," to be published by RDR Books, was charged with "inappropriately referencing Rowling's fictional characters and universe." Harry Potter Lexicon website creator and owner Steve Vander Ark has taken most blame for this copyright infringement. The Lexicon is essentially an exhaustive A – Z listing of characters, places, events, and everything else imaginable that deals with Harry and his magical world.

The suit alleges that "there is a big difference between the innumerable Harry Potter fan sites' latitude to discuss the Harry Potter Works in the context of free, ephemeral websites and unilaterally repackaging those sites for sale in an effort to cash in monetarily on Ms. Rowling's creative works in contravention of her wishes and rights." Among other things, the suit alleges copyright infringement and asks for a permanent injunction against the defendant and associated entities for selling or distributing works derived or copied from Harry Potter.

In an opinion piece that ran in the business section of the New York Times, the paper described the case as a "power grab" and an attempted "choke" of creativity by Rowling before calling her a "copyright hog."

The JKR v. RDR trial began on April 14, 2008, and over eight hours of testimony transpired on the first day. During testimony, Rowling called the Lexicon a "wholesale theft of 17 years of [her] hard work" and that it debased "that which [she] worked so hard to write." Rowling then indicated her intention to write a complete Harry Potter encyclopedia, which she had previously announced last year following the release of the seventh and final installment in the series, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows However, the publication of the Lexicon would threaten her "will" and "heart to continue with [her] encyclopedia."

RDR publisher Roger Rapoport then took to the stand to defend the amount of time and work put into the publication, arguing that its intention was never to take away from the Harry Potter franchise, but to serve as an easy-to-use supplemental guide for fans.

On the second day of trial, Lexicon creator Vander Ark took the stand and was visibly upset about the criticism of his work, declaring that he was coerced into publishing it. At the end of the day, Judge Robert Patterson addressed the court and asked the parties to come to a settlement agreement because the "fair use doctrine is not clear" in this case.

U. S. District Judge Robert Patterson urged the two sides to settle out of court. He must still decide whether to grant Rowling's request to block publication of the guide. Citing that this case involved unresolved areas of American law and was almost certain to end in years of appeals, Patterson is not expected to announce his decision for several weeks.

However, Patterson was informed on April 16 that the parties reached a settlement on the false advertising and trade claims, meaning that Rowling's name or endorsement of the book would appear nowhere in its publication should it be successful. The copyright infringement claim is yet to be settled.

Image credit: Rowling in the New York Post.

CD review: "Making the Band" fans will love "Day 26"

Samantha Green
Staff Writer

Day 26's debut self-titled album is a good album for those who like R&B and is a better album for those who followed "Making the Band 4" and feels like they know the band.

The sound of "Day 26" is reminiscent of 112 and other R&B male groups like New Edition. Their vocals are strong. The album is mostly mid-tempo to up-tempo songs. However, more slow songs would have made the album better because it would have shown the range of each group member.

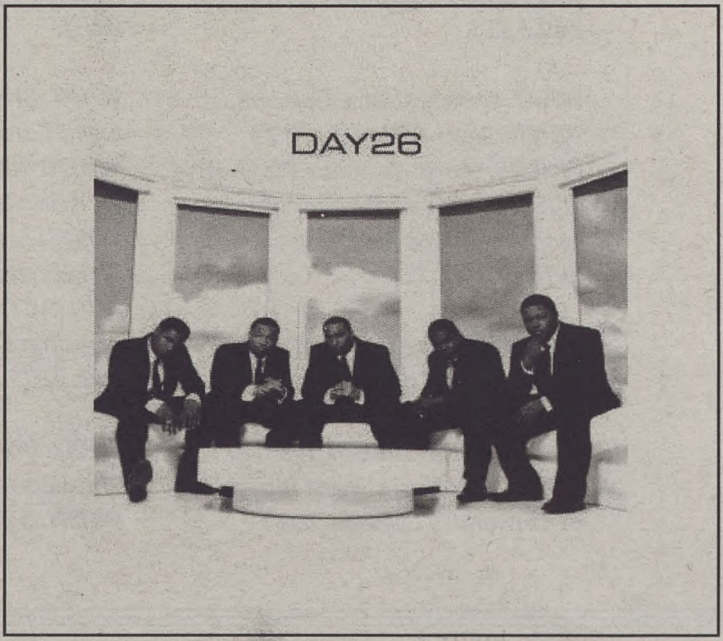
The album's opening song, "I'm the Reason," is a good up-tempo song. "Co Star" is a nice mid-tempo song. "Since You've Been Gone" is one of the best slow songs on "Day 26."

"Making the Band" was a great marketing tool for Day 26. "Day 26" has songs that were shown being recorded on the popular television show, mixed with some surprises. The song "Come With Me" that Robert was having trouble with on the show (though this issue was never resolved for viewers) is on the album. "What It Feels Like," the song P. Diddy told Brian not to scream on, is on the album as well.

Group harmony is heard in each song, especially "Are We in This Together" and "Silly Love." The theme songs "Exclusive (No Excuses)" and "Ain't Going," which features Danity Kane, are on "Day 26." The ballad of "Exclusive (No Excuses)" that was performed on the season one finale is not on the CD, and that song would have made the album even better.

It doesn't matter if your favorite group member is Brian, Robert, Willie, Que, or Mike. Each member has his time to shine on each song and it is easy to tell who is singing which parts. They sound like a group rather than a bunch of men competing for a spot in a song. Rather than being confrontational, their voices are complimentary and, even when their voices overlap, it sounds like they belong in that particular part of the song. This is best heard in the song "In My Bed."

"Day 26" is a great first album for a group that already has a fan base. The people who watched "Making the Band" witnessed Day 26's growth as artists. "Day 26" serves as the icing on the cake, though those who didn't watch the show won't be upset if they purchase the album. "Day 26" is a good R&B album from a male group who at this point has no competition in the music industry.



“The Forbidden Kingdom” delivers entertaining martial arts action

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

Martial arts movie fans have been salivating for Jackie Chan and Jet Li to star in a movie together. They are the two biggest and most popular kung-fu stars on the planet, so it seems only natural that fans would want to see them in a movie together. After years of waiting, their wish has finally come true as the two of them star together in “The Forbidden Kingdom.” But was it worth the wait?

Before I get into that, I must give a summary of the film. The movie is about a kid from Boston named Jason (Michael Angarano). He is obsessed with kung-fu movies and visits a local Chinese pawn shop to buy bootlegs of these films. After a run-in with some bullies, he is forced to help them rob the store. However, he picks up a staff and it sends him back to Ancient China, where he is forced to team up with a monk (Jet Li) and a drunken immortal (Jackie Chan) so that he can return home.

That description brings me into my first complaint with the movie – the white guy. He was completely unnecessary. I would have seen the movie without having him in the story. I find it hard to believe that people would not have seen the film without having a white guy present. Instead Hollywood decided to insult my intelligence by including him.

This also leads to my next complaint. After the boy is sent back through time, nobody can speak English. After he meets Jackie Chan, they can all speak English. This one little detail took me out of the movie and nearly ruined the entire thing for me. Add in the fact that the main villain is lame and the movie is almost a near disaster from the start.

But then Jackie Chan and Jet Li appear in the movie. At that point, I forgave the film of every problem because, to be honest, they were having so much fun in the movie that I actually started to enjoy it.

The movie turns out to have a really good sense of humor and is very fast-paced. Plus, Chan and Li spend most of the movie training Jason. By this, I mean that they train him by beating the crap out of him. That was lots of fun to watch, as the actor is very bland.

Special mention must go to the fights in this movie. They are ridiculous (in a good way); every fight is intense and fun. There is also something unique to each one – so much so that they even manage to make the white guy have a few decent fights.

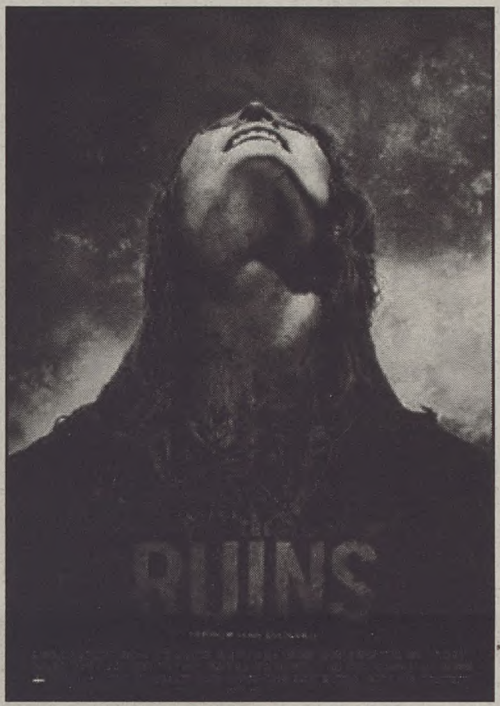
About 30 minutes into the movie, Jackie Chan and Jet Li are allowed to fight. And what a fight it is! The fight lasts for a long time (it is easily the longest fight in the movie) and shows just how good these two are as fighters.

When the movie finished, I realized something: I actually enjoyed it. Despite the major and glaring flaws (white guy, inexplicable English speaking, the generic storyline), I managed to have a good time. The fights were spectacular, the acting was decent, and the humor was fun (look for the desert rain sequence). Overall, I can think of worse movies to see. Essentially, this is a movie for fans of Li and Chan, but if you keep your expectations low, then you might enjoy the film.

“The Ruins” is gory but horrifyingly good

Todd Johnson
A & E Editor

I love a good horror movie, but sadly, it seems that there are fewer and fewer good horror movies coming out nowadays. I always hope for a good one, but it seems very unlikely that I’ll get it as it will either be PG-13, a crappy remake, or another “Saw” movie. However, when I heard that there was a movie version of the freaky-as-hell novel “The Ruins” coming to theaters, I was both excited and apprehensive. Was this going to be a watered-down and ultimately disappointing version of the book that I loved? Or was it going to be a scary and brutal horror movie worthy of the book?



Thankfully, “The Ruins” is the latter.

The film is about best friends Amy (Jena Malone) and Stacy (Laura Ramsey) and their boyfriends Jeff (Jonathan Tucker) and Eric (Shawn Ashmore). They are on vacation in Mexico when a German man named Mathias (Joe Anderson) asks them to accompany him to some Mayan ruins that his brother found during an archeological dig. They go to the ruins and are trapped there by some Mayan villagers. However, they discover that there is something else living in the ruins - and it’s not a pleasant surprise.

This movie is relentless. Once they reach the ruins, the movie never lets up once. There is no ease in the tension, no quick and cheap laughs - this movie just keeps on pounding in the intensity. The situation starts off bad and only gets worse as the movie progresses.

The actors all do great work. They really make you relate to the desperation that the characters are surely feeling throughout the movie.

This movie is also very gory and brutal. There are several scenes that can and will induce nausea, especially a scene involving an amputation. Another scene involving a character cutting into herself to get rid of a parasite was equally gross. Normally, these scenes would not bother me that much, but this movie does such a good job of keeping everything realistic (or as realistic as possible once the “villain” of the movie is revealed).

The only complaint that I had with the movie centered on some of the changes from the book. Without revealing too much, some of the deaths have been changed or switched to different characters. By doing this, one of my favorite characters from the novel gets short-changed while the sense of inevitable doom that pervaded throughout the novel is missing.

However, the movie is still an intense and brutal horror thriller. It is easily the best horror movie that I have seen since “The Descent.” Do yourself a favor, especially if you love horror movies, and check out this movie. You will not regret it - even when you want to run to the bathroom and throw up.

SPORTS

Tallach talks tough about exciting changes in athletics

Michael Jarboe
Sports Editor

It's been several months since The Conglomerate has last interviewed Athletic Director Dr. Tom Tallach.

"Welcome to my office." In the past several months, the whirlwind of ups and downs has set a constant chaotic pace throughout the spring semester. There was a consecutively strong showing by both men's and women's swim teams, even with the odds against them without a diving team. There was the sad departure of many of our volleyball players at the end of fall semester, the huge win by the ladies basketball team at Homecoming, the hiring of a new men's soccer coach, and the controversial release of Gents basketball coach Rob Flaska.

All of these have had huge impacts during the first year of Dr. Tallach's time in power. Nevertheless, his confidence seems stronger than ever. "We're setting school records," said Tallach. "[We have] win streaks with the baseball and softball teams, the hiring of a new men's basketball coach, major facility renovations (the Gold Dome being the main focus), and the start of club sports in lacrosse and fencing, to name a few."

As the conversation continued, the subject focus began to stick mainly on the recent hiring of new men's basketball coach Greg Gary. Coach Gary played for three years at Tulane University and left his senior year as the all-time assist leader. In recent years, Gary has spent valuable coaching time with four years at South Florida (2004-07) and four more years at Miami (2000-04) in the Big East conference.

"We're very excited about getting Greg here to Shreveport," boasted Tallach. "He's an outstanding recruiter, especially in the state of Louisiana due to his past at Tulane, and has a strong demeanor and presence when he enters the court. We're bringing him in during a time when our roster is young, allowing him ample time to mold the team into a dynamic group."

The intensity and excitement in Dr. Tallach's voice gave great evidence of an exciting year to come in Centenary sports. As the off-season for all teams is approaching, you can bet both players and coaches will come back next year aiming for the best.

Cornelius and Gilbert honored at annual All-Sports Banquet

Centenary Sports Information

The Centenary Athletics Department and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) recently held its annual All-Sports Banquet, which featured all 16 varsity sports. Coaches discussed their team's successes and highlighted individual accomplishments. In addition, junior Julia Cornelius from gymnastics and senior Ross Gilbert from swimming were awarded the Centenary Athletics Outstanding Achievement Award.

The SAAC committee also gave out a pair of awards. The organization honored a men's and a women's team who represent Centenary well, on and off the playing field, who have a high team grade point average, and support the other sports by attending athletics events. This year's recipients were the softball team and the men's swim team.

The Outstanding Achievement Award, given yearly to one female and one male student-athlete that excelled in their respective sport and in the classroom, is the highest award given from the athletics department to an individual.

Cornelius is a junior biophysics major with a 3.95 grade point average and is also a math minor. Three times she has been an All-American Scholar Athlete in the Midwest Independent Conference and has twice been named a Scholastic All-American for the National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches. She also received the athletic excellence award in 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Cornelius has made the Dean's List all three years so far and is a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, the Chemistry Club and the Physics Club.

In addition, Cornelius is co-captain on the gymnastics team and has earned a total of four USA Gymnastics All-American honors, including on the balance beam in 2006, on the uneven bars and the beam in 2007, and most recently on the bars in 2008. She was selected first team all-conference and placed second on the beam at the Midwest Independent Conference Championship in 2007.

Gilbert is a senior double major in business administration and finance with an economics minor. He is on the Dean's List, is an Honor Court Justice, and was a Student Ambassador. In addition, he is a member of Phi Beta Lamda, Omicron Delta Kappa, an Orientation Staff member, and a QEP subcommittee member. He also was on the NCAA re-certification subcommittee, the Summit League Commissioner's List of Academic Excellence, and is involved with the FCA and Stepping Stones.

On the athletics side, Gilbert was a co-president for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for two years and twice was captain of the Gents swim team. He earned first team all-conference honors in 2008 and was a second team honoree as a freshman and a junior. He finished third at The Summit League Championships in the mile and was a member of the 800-yard free relay team, which placed first at the conference swim meet. It was the first relay victory for Centenary ever. He currently holds one school record.

Athlete of the Week: Gent golfer is punctual and honest

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

Full Name: Mark Weeber
Classification: Sophomore
Hometown: Harare, Zimbabwe
Major: Health and Exercise Science
Sport: Golf

Why did you choose to come to Centenary? After talking with my coach, the size of the college appealed to me; plus the financial aid opportunity was great!

How long have you been playing golf? 12 years.

What do you look forward to most this season? Our conference tournament in Western Illinois.

Who's your favorite professional golfer? Retief Goosen.

What's your most exciting moment on the golf course thus far? Holing out for an ace in a national foursome's tournament.

Lowest round and what course? 69 - Harare Country Club.

Who do you compare yourself to on the tour? Jose Maria Olazabal

What course do you dream of playing on one day? I'm going to go with Augusta.

List five words to describe yourself: punctual, friendly, honest, fun-loving, laidback

How did you feel about Trevor Immelman winning the Masters? I was pretty chuffed that he pulled through, he was a little shaky on the back nine, but he held it together. I was impressed.

The Conglomerate presents: The life of a student athlete

Allison McClain
Staff Writer

Welcome back fans! It's overwhelming to think about the short amount of time we have until the end of the school year, which also means Summit League play is nearly ending as well.

This weekend was by far a challenging one for us as we battled North Dakota State in a pivotal conference series at home. The Bison ended up taking all three games from us. These three losses still keep us in the running for the #1 seed in our conference tournament.

So much is happening over the next few weeks that sleep and relaxation do not exist in our lives right now. With tests, papers, finals, presentations, to go along with winning softball games and practicing when not competing—we are still remaining strong. As a team, we have not let up.

Even though the weekend did not go as planned and we came short of claiming the regular season championship with the three losses to league leader, NDSU, we have our eyes on the bigger prize, winning The Summit League Championship and advancing to the NCAA Regional (something that I haven't been a part of since my career started here at Centenary).

We have a huge weekend coming up as we host Western Illinois, where taking all three games is our ideal goal. This series means a lot as we will be faced with obstacles from this past weekend, but it will also show how we hold up under pressure.

This weekend means much more to all of us as it will be the last conference series our four seniors will see on their home field. Each senior has brought something different to the team, but in the end—that is what makes us so special.

I will start off by introducing each of them individually:

#2 Lauren Flowers from San Antonio, Texas. We call her Flowers, but who wouldn't when someone has such a cool last name like that. Flowers is one of our two captains this year and she has shown off her versatility playing centerfield, second base, first base, short stop, and catcher in her career at Centenary. Her athletic ability combined with her coaching-like mentality has proven to be a key asset to our team over the course of the season. She never seems to take a play off and is always focused day in and day out. Flowers will be truly missed by all of us.

#11 Lyn Virdell from Claremore, Oklahoma. Lyn's season was cut short due to injuries, but her enthusiastic demeanor has given our team spirit and pride throughout. Over the course of her career, she has been a middle infielder that showcases her great range. She always seems to have something up her sleeve, whether it's a joke, a cool new saying, or an impersonation of someone else. We will always remember, "Lyn, tuck in your shirt."

#12 Jennifer Martin from Ft. Worth, Texas. She has grown to be one of our strongest outfielders playing left field this season. Her ability to understand the game at such a high level makes her a truly unique teammate. Off the field, she brings intelligence and leadership as she is involved in numerous organizations and honor societies on campus. She will be missed greatly as will her bandanas.

#22 Amy Wiedeman from Houston, Texas. Amy's power and speed combined make her such a cool ball player to watch. She will hit the longest homeruns anyone has ever seen and steal bases when no one is expecting. Her drive and determination to be on the field every game makes her difficult to compare. Amy's "go get her" attitude is evident when she is playing and that alone, we will miss.

With all that said, the seniors of this season each possess qualities that are evident in our success thus far. We look, as a team, to continue striving for our ultimate goals as we near the end of the road and near the last collegiate games they play.

Our team heads to I-49 and instate rival Northwestern State tomorrow for a single game at 5:30 p.m. and we then host Western Illinois in conference beginning at 4 p.m. on Friday. Senior Day celebrations will be held prior to the Saturday game against Western Illinois.

Come out and show a little spirit! Last home series of the year, so wear maroon and cheer loud.

WORD SEARCH FLOWERS

S	N	E	P	K	F	Z	O	X	P	A	Q	A	B	I	D	I	Z	T	P	R	N
G	O	P	D	L	J	O	E	A	E	Y	R	O	L	G	G	N	I	N	R	O	M
O	I	O	K	H	V	E	N	G	E	M	U	W	P	F	M	V	T	H	Q	J	P
U	L	P	E	N	C	S	N	N	P	S	M	U	W	C	A	A	G	Y	S	O	B
E	E	P	D	R	Y	A	M	D	I	J	C	I	Y	Y	Y	B	Z	W	I	A	L
D	D	Y	T	Q	R	P	A	R	O	R	H	T	N	I	C	A	Y	H	X	M	U
B	N	H	Y	D	Z	F	I	K	E	T	P	E	P	K	F	I	H	V	Y	U	E
X	A	X	Y	L	F	B	E	T	T	S	N	B	L	U	L	J	O	G	S	I	B
C	D	H	J	O	L	S	T	U	I	V	E	U	S	I	C	G	L	D	I	N	E
S	Z	M	D	E	O	U	L	G	E	S	P	H	L	T	J	M	L	O	A	A	L
Y	D	I	K	R	B	I	X	N	R	N	I	A	S	R	H	J	Y	G	D	R	L
X	L	U	U	N	P	V	T	V	E	A	C	Q	U	G	D	L	H	W	S	E	H
M	U	M	E	H	T	N	A	S	Y	R	H	C	M	Z	I	S	O	O	I	G	H
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L	C	A	N	A	D	G	I	J	U	N	I	P	E	R	P	I	R	Y	O	T	S
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R	S	E	P	Q	A	B	L	Q	K	Z	C	E	J	A	S	M	I	N	E	T	U
U	S	A	L	H	E	A	E	A	I	L	O	N	G	A	M	H	D	C	J	R	S
A	U	J	R	Y	L	X	T	Y	F	Y	H	O	N	E	Y	S	U	C	K	L	E
L	S	R	I	L	O	S	U	N	F	L	O	W	E	R	O	G	G	J	U	A	R

Azalea
BlueBell
Buttercup
Carnation
Chrysanthemum
Daffodil
Daisy
Dandelion
Dogwood
Fushia
Geranium
Hibiscus
Hollyhock
Honeysuckle
Hyacinth
Hydrangea
Iris
Jasmine
Juniper
Laurel
Lilac
Lily
Magnolia
Morning Glory
Narcissus
Oleander
Pansy
Poppy
Rose
Sunflower
Tulip
Violet

Horoscopes

Taurus (4/21-5/21) Cheer up, things will get better...and if not, prostitution is always a well-paying job.

Gemini (5/22- 6/21) You are gross. That's all.

Cancer (6/22-7/23) We all know that that certain person is a jerk and on a power trip, but I won't help you beat them up until you stop obsessing.

Leo (7/24-8/23) Follow your intuition, or the messages inside those little Dove candies, they are so insightful!

Virgo (8/24-9/23) Forget about finals, beach bums have more fun anyway.

Libra (9/24) Here's an idea, why don't you chill out and stop driving yourself crazy? I say that happiness is measured by the people who love you, or the number of beers you can chug in one sitting.

Scorpio (10/23-11/22) Pregnancy tests are on sale at Walgreens right now, just thought you would like to know... since, you know... you probably need to take one.

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) If I meet up with you in ten years, I will pretend like I don't know you, but in reality I will never forget that night you were drunk at that party and stripping on the cop car.

Capricorn (12/22-1/20) The best conversations are never the ones where you are drunk but the ones where you feel like you should be.

Aquarius (1/21-2/19) Prank calls are for boys going through puberty who have too much time on their hands, or procrastinating college students counting the seconds to graduation.

Pisces (2/20-3/20) The worst is over... well, until finals, that is.

Aries (3/21-4/20) For you, a poem....
My hollyhock, my gillyflower, my hon
E-suckle, Rose. You know I do not like
your face. I flee your thorns, I run
(knee hurts). I tumble down. I need a bike.

This poem was composed by students from Medieval Literature class.

Ups and Downs

↑ **Yearbooks**
For finally being distributed and improving from last year.

↑ **SGA**
For reviewing the Media budgets and the reallocation of funds.

↓ **People going through Room Lottery**
For not reading the hundreds of emails that Kevin Wagner sent out and being clueless to proper procedure.

↑ **EchoBOOM**
For giving an amazing performance.

↓ **SGA**
For not extending the review of student fees to all organizations.

↓ **DPS/Administration**
For not informing students of important situations on campus.

Centenary Concert Wire

Friday, April 25th
Tyler Read, The New Frontiers, Alive in Wild Paint, Quiet Company will be playing at 7 pm on Friday, April 28th at the University Center of LSUS.

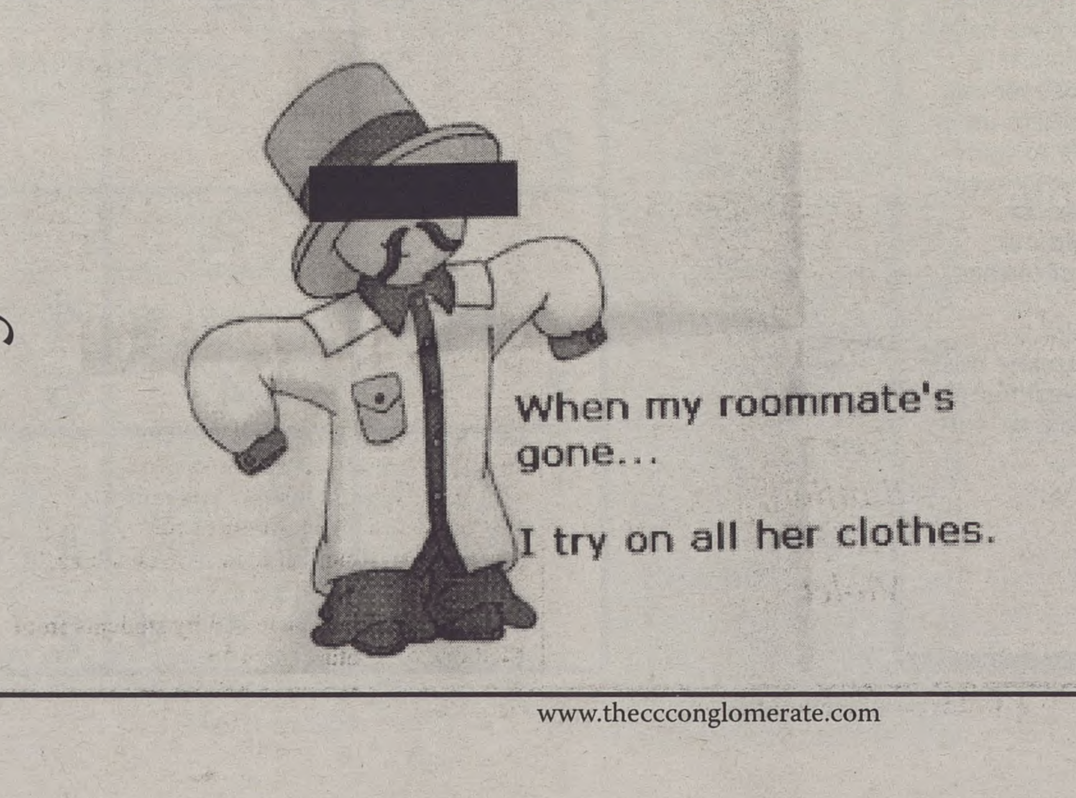
Friday April 25th
Black Stone Cherry! and Reflections Burn will perform at 10 pm on Friday, April 25th at the Warehouse. For more information, please visit www.myspace.com/theriversidewarehouse

Friday, April 25th
The Noids, AJ Haynes, and Monadnoc will perform at 8 pm on Friday, April 25th at Actor's Cafe. For more information, please email impactanalysis@gmail.com

Saturday, April 26th
Jack Blasphemy, Aaron Stanfield, Gary Williams, Fielder&Wharton, and CitiesKilledStarlight will perform at 7 pm on Saturday, April 26th at Harlequin Alley. For more information, please visit www.myspace.com/harlequinalley

Saturday, April 26th
Righteous Bucks, Butt Pilot from Planet Pluto, Knar, and Blanket of M will perform at 8 pm on Saturday, April 26th at Harlequin Alley. For more information, please visit www.myspace.com/hhlounge

Centenary Secrets


[redacted]

When my roommate's gone...

I try on all her clothes.

In order to participate, take a postcard and tell your secret anonymously. Send the card to campus box 786 or slip it under the Conglomerate Office door on the third floor of the SUB.

Jazz Fest kicks off this weekend with great food and better music

Courtney Delaney
Layout Editor

Jazz Fest is finally here. Throughout spring in Louisiana there is an abundance of festivals, including everything from Strawberry Fest to Festival International and the Crawfish and Potpourri Festivals (not the same event). The grandest festival in Louisiana, though, and without a doubt the most expensive, is Jazz Fest. Taking place every year on the last weekend of April and the first weekend of May, Jazz Fest has been a staple of Louisiana heritage for 39 years. Every year hundreds of people gather on the New Orleans Fairgrounds to enjoy good food, good music and good company.

Of course everyone goes to Jazz Fest mainly for the music. This year's lineup may be lacking some of the more current popular bands but Jazz Fest veterans like The Neville Brothers, Stevie Wonder, Billy Joel, Jimmy Buffett, Santana, and many more will be there. One of the most anticipated shows is the Robert Plant and Allison Krauss set, occurring on Friday, April 25. After Plant reunited with his former band mates of Led Zeppelin earlier this year for one show in London he went on the road with country and bluegrass singer Allison Krauss. Their tour thus far has been well-received and Jazz Fest is sure to be a great venue for the two artists.

The greatest obstacle when attending Jazz Fest is the heat. Since the festival is located on a racetrack there is very little shade and it's extremely common for attendees to suffer from heat stroke and dehydration. Finding shade may not be easy, but after attending the festival for 18 years, I have a few tips for those who wish to avoid the First Aid tent. First off, the Grand Stand is the perfect place for a retreat. Not only is the Grand Stand the only air-conditioned spot on the fair grounds – sometimes you stumble onto a small band's performance or a local chef's demonstration. Also in this AC heaven are the cleanest bathrooms in about a five-block radius. Another gem of the Grand Stand is that since very few people know about it, or would prefer to camp out at their favorite stage, it is always fairly empty.

Other good places to avoid the heat are the Southern Comfort Blues Tent, the WWOZ Jazz Tent, and the AIG Gospel tent, which are all usually pretty cool and very shady. These tents, located on either side of the Contemporary Crafts section, are not only a great place to retreat from the heat but also to listen to great music from New Orleans as well as meet some amazing people. Finally, the most amazing invention to appear at Jazz Fest is the misting tent, you can just walk through and get a light refreshing mist when walking from one stage to another.

Another one of the greatest aspects of Jazz Fest is the food. You can find everything from traditional Creole and New Orleans cuisine to original recipes from some of the best caterers in the area. There are some of the classic dishes you cannot walk away from Jazz Fest without sampling, the first of which is crawfish bread. After years of being a delicacy originally only found at Jazz Fest, crawfish bread has become a staple of most Louisiana festivals. Another staple of this festival's food are Prejean's crawfish enchiladas, which cannot be passed up and are cheaper than crawfish bread. Also, don't forget the numerous po-boys found throughout the fairgrounds: shrimp, crawfish, soft-shell crab, gator, and many more. Finally, my two favorite treats at Jazz Fest are Love at First Bite's fried eggplant with crawfish sauce and Sunshine Concessions' Rosemint Tea.

Also, don't forget to check out all the crafts and merchandise for sale at Jazz Fest. You can discover some really great finds there; the vendors have a large range of Louisiana Heritage. While t-shirts, hats, bandanas and other official Jazz Fest merchandise are usually on the pricy side, they are a good investment. There are some people who will pay a good bit of money for Jazz Fest items on ebay. One of the places you should definitely visit while there is the Borders tent, which sells CDs and DVDs; usually they are artists that have been to Jazz Fest in the past. And my favorite tent is the Live Festival Recordings tent where you can purchase CDs of the live recordings of performances of not only past years at Jazz Fest but also shows that have already occurred during this year's festivities.

This year's Jazz Fest is sure to be a hit as usual. For more information go to the official website, http://www.nojazzfest.com.

The Conglomerate needs

HELP

The Conglomerate desperately needs your help because the combination of rising printing costs and our increased frequency in printing has depleted our budget: we have not been able to pay our staff at all this month and are working hard to raise money for the rest of the semester. Please help us in any way you can - if you're willing to write for free, if you have any business or sponsor contacts, if you have any ideas for fundraising - and please attend our fundraising events when we announce them in the coming weeks.

We have really appreciated your support this year and don't want to end on a weak note because of financial constraints. Help us out!

Contact:
paper@centenary.edu
Versha Sharma
vsharma@centenary.edu
(318) 792-5136

Sudoku

6		5	7	3	1			
		3			2			
2	1							7
		1		2				8
	6	9				4	2	
7				4		5		
1							6	4
			6			1		
			9	1	4	2		5